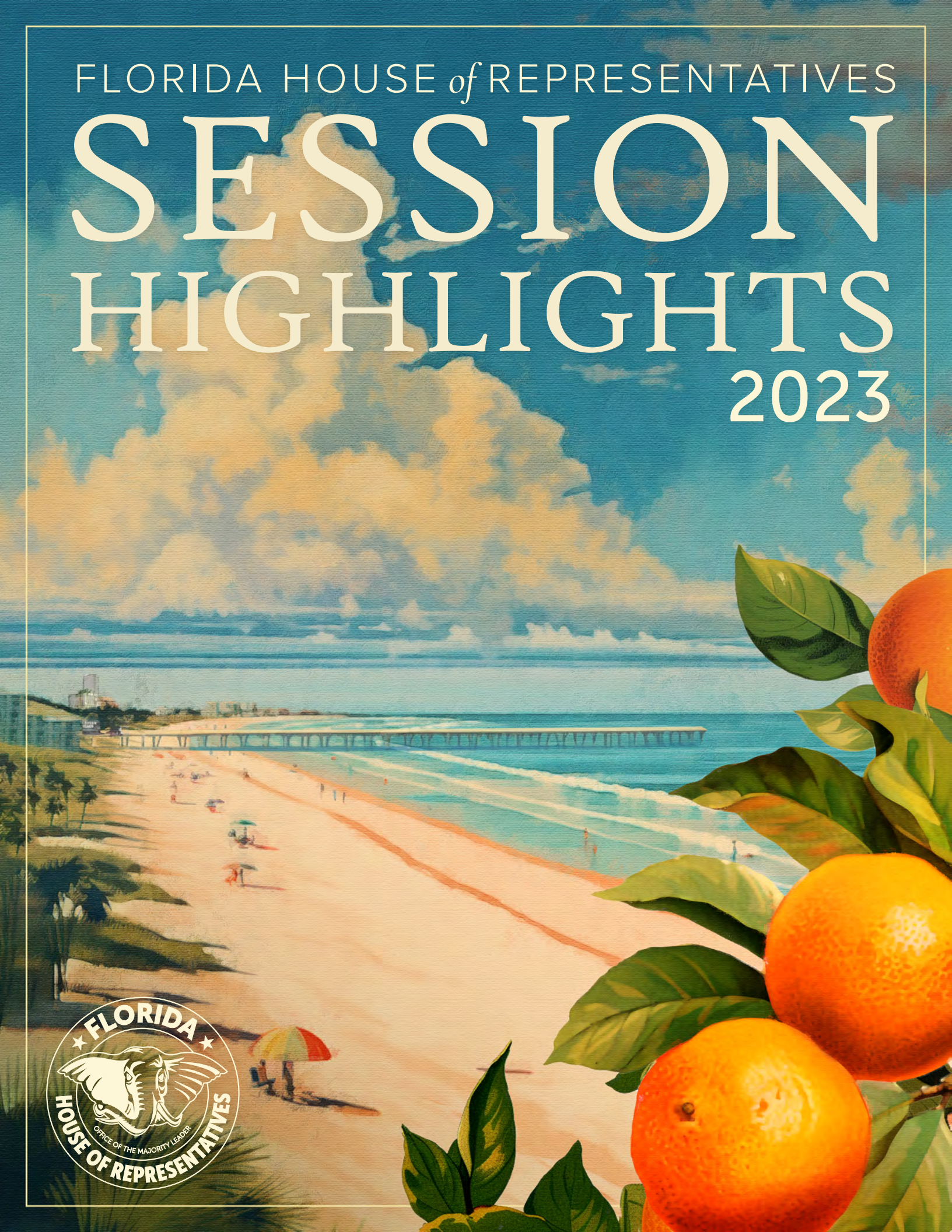


FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION

# HIGHLIGHTS

2023



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The information provided in this publication is intended to help House Republicans communicate the topline outcomes from the 2023 Legislative Session in a compelling and meaningful way.

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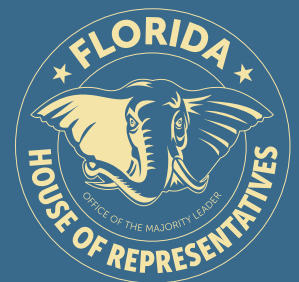
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FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE



# HB 3

REPRESENTATIVES  
**ROMMEL  
& SIROIS**

# GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE ACTIVISM



**HB 3 fights back against corporate elites who threaten to hijack our democracy through agenda-laden environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investment strategies, which drive up the cost of living, undermine our national security, and bypass our democratic process. It stops activist agendas and restores the focus on the successes of capitalism.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Combats financial discrimination and defends the rights of Floridians by preventing financial institutions from denying or canceling services to consumers based on their political or social beliefs.
- Protects Florida's taxpayer-funded assets by safeguarding state investments and public retirement accounts from ESG strategies.
- Finances Florida's future with quality bonds to ensure the stability and prosperity as the state continues to grow.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- ESG investing is a form of corporate activism which bypasses democracy and transforms capitalism to serve an ideological agenda in place of making investment decisions on sound financial analyses and business practices to best serve the shareholders' interests.
- A "social credit score" is a rating, scoring, analysis, or tabulation based on factors including, but not limited to, political opinions, speech, or affiliations; religious beliefs, exercise, or affiliations; or involvement, engagement, or support in certain industries, such as lawful firearm sales and fossil-fuel energy.



## BILL BASICS

### COMBATS FINANCIAL DISCRIMINATION

- Defends the rights of Floridians by preventing financial institutions from denying or canceling services to consumers based on their political or social beliefs.
- Eliminates discrimination in the provision of financial services by requiring financial institutions to make decisions based on quantitative, impartial, risk-based standards.
- Protects consumers' ability to prosper by preserving their access to capital and prohibiting financial institutions from using social credit scores in banking or lending.

### FINANCES FLORIDA'S FUTURE WITH QUALITY BONDS

- Ensures the public bonds used to finance the projects building Florida's future are not compromised by misguided ESG marketing strategies and labels.

### SAFEGUARDS FLORIDA'S ASSETS

- Protects taxpayer dollars and Florida retirement accounts by prohibiting state and local governments from using ESG factors when making investment decisions, exercising shareholder rights, or issuing bonds.
- Prevents state and local governmental entities from engaging in ESG activities when purchasing services by prohibiting them from considering a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests.
- Reinforces the fiduciary duty of those with the responsibility of investing state and local dollars, like pension fund managers, by ensuring they act in the sole financial interests of the taxpayers whose dollars they are investing by choosing investments to maximize financial returns.
- Combats ESG corporate activism by forbidding banks from holding government funds as a qualified public depository if they engage in such practices.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **80-31**  
SENATE **28-12**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**



# HB 5

REPRESENTATIVE  
ESPOSITO

# ECONOMIC PROGRAMS



The Florida Way requires us to retain only what works and eliminate what does not. Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) has over-promised and under-delivered for years and drains funds from higher priorities. HB 5 ensures we can focus more state resources on implementing policies to benefit all businesses.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes fiscal responsibility and free market principles by eliminating EFI and many other outdated economic programs which pick winners and losers.
- Reaffirms Florida's commitment to free enterprise by ensuring an equal playing field for all businesses.
- Ensures responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars by improving and expanding oversight for existing programs and reforming and renaming the Department of Economic Opportunity.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- EFI was created to bring more businesses to the state through public-private partnerships, but a report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability concluded that 64% of the 260 projects that received incentive payments from EFI were expansions of existing Florida businesses rather than attracting new companies to the state.
- The bill repeals many duplicative, underused, underperforming, or expired programs and incentives, including: qualified target industry businesses tax refund, Economic Gardening Programs, Quick Action Closing Fund, Innovation Incentive Program, entertainment industry tax credit, qualified defense and space flight tax refund, Florida Space Flight Business Incentives, Scripps Florida Funding Corporation, Motorsports Entertainment Complex, Professional Golf Hall of Fame, International Game Fish Association World Center, Florida Small Business Technology Program, New Markets Development Program, microfinance programs, Office of Film and Entertainment, and Florida Film Advisory Council.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Eliminates EFI and reforms the Department of Economic Opportunity – now renamed the Department of Commerce (Commerce).
- Repeals 16 outdated and underperforming economic programs and incentives, most of which have shown a negative or negligible return on investment for the state.
- Designates VISIT Florida and the Florida Sports Foundation as direct support organizations of Commerce.
- Charges Commerce with supporting the state's leadership in defense, space, and aerospace activities.
- Continues Florida's mission to develop international trade by creating a direct support organization under Commerce to serve as the international trade development entity for the state.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 112-0  
SENATE 36-1

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



**As the state continues to grow, we must ensure the construction of new buildings is not delayed by arbitrary red tape, while maintaining the safety of all Floridians.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Reduces construction delays and costs by streamlining the planning and permitting process for new buildings.
- Prohibits local governments from making arbitrary changes to previously approved building plans, unless required by law.
- Ensures local governments and fire safety officials properly inform permitholders of the specific reasons why existing plans do not comply.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Permits are generally issued prior to starting construction projects, but after plans are reviewed by local building officials.
- A local enforcing agency must identify the specific plan features that do not comply with the Building Code whenever a permit is denied, but there is no similar requirement for fire safety officials and the Fire Prevention Code.
- Additionally, current law is unclear on whether local governments must notify permitholders about the specific reasons why building plans do not comply with the Building Code or the Fire Prevention Code if they require substantive changes to plans after the permit is issued.



## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits a local government from making substantive changes to building plans after a building permit has been issued unless such changes are required under the Building Code or Fire Prevention Code.
- Ensures existing permitholders are notified in writing by local governments about the aspects of a previously approved building plan which do not conform to code.
- Directs local fire officials to notify permit applicants of specific reasons why plans do not comply with the Fire Prevention Code.
- Ensures local governments are notified about any compliance determinations made by someone other than the building official or inspector.

**SB 154**  
(HB 1395)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**LOPEZ, V.**

# CONDOMINIUM AND COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS



Following the tragic collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium in June 2021, the Legislature acted to help prevent similar tragedies by putting in place new building safety measures. SB 154 improves on these reforms.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Improves enforcement and adoption of new milestone inspection requirements for condominium and cooperative buildings by expanding and clarifying methods and timetables.
- Protects residents by expanding disclosure of a building's condition and empowering their ability to ensure building compliance with safety standards.
- Mitigates insurance costs for condominium owners seeking coverage from Citizens Property Insurance (Citizens) by removing a requirement to purchase flood coverage.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- During the 2022 Special Session D, SB 4-D was enacted to provide building safety inspection requirements for condominium and cooperative association buildings (milestone inspections), increase the rights of unit owners and prospective unit owners to access information regarding the condition of such buildings, and revise the requirements for associations to fund reserves for the continued maintenance and repair of such buildings.
- Generally, the bill required:
  - A condominium or cooperative building three stories or more in height to perform a milestone inspection at 30 years of age (25 years for coastal buildings) and every 10 years thereafter.
  - A condominium or cooperative to complete a "structural integrity reserve study" (SIRS) every 10 years to determine reserve funds required for future major repairs.



## BILL BASICS

- Revises the milestone inspection requirements for condominium and cooperative buildings three or more stories in height and expands methods of compliance with inspections and reserve funds.
- Makes timing of inspections uniform at 30 years of age, while giving local governments limited discretion in determining the time of milestone inspections for coastal buildings, and requires the Florida Building Commission to create a building safety program.
- Requires disclosure of milestone inspection and SIRS reports in sales contracts and allows unit owners to utilize pre-suit mediation to resolve certain disputes related to milestone inspections and SIRS.
- Removes requirement for condominium unit policyholders to purchase flood insurance as a condition for maintaining their Citizens policies.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **118-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 179

REPRESENTATIVE  
ANDRADE

# FLORIDA KRATOM CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT



Kratom use has grown more prevalent in recent years due its reported pain-relieving and stimulating effects, however, its health impacts remain unclear. HB 179 helps ensure this drug-like substance does not fall into the hands of our youth.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects our youth from the largely unknown and potentially harmful impacts of kratom by prohibiting the sale to anyone under the age of 21.
- Ensures adequate enforcement by providing clear definitions for kratom products as well as providing criminal penalties.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Kratom, *Mitragyna speciosa*, is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia that contains psychoactive ingredients in its leaves, which may be crushed and then smoked, brewed with tea, or placed into gel capsules.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has stated there is substantial concern regarding the safety of kratom and the risk it may pose to public health.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Makes it unlawful to sell, deliver, barter, furnish, or give, directly or indirectly, any kratom product to any person who is under 21 years of age.
- Classifies a violation as a second-degree misdemeanor.
- Clearly defines “kratom product” to include food product, food ingredient, dietary ingredient, dietary supplement, or beverage.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **114-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

**SB 214**  
(HB 221)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**SNYDER**

# SALES OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION



The right to keep and bear arms is a foundational right of American citizens. While there is often a concern about governmental infringement on this right, there is growing cause for concern of infringement by large private sector companies.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Prevents financial institutions from infringing on the constitutional rights of Floridians through the creation of private gun registries.
- Gives the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) the tools to investigate and enforce violations.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A Merchant Category Code (MCC) is a code used by credit card payment associations that categorizes where a credit card purchase is made without showing the specific items that were purchased. Historically, firearm related vendors have been classified as "sporting goods stores."
- Recently, the International Organization for Standardization, which created MCCs, announced a new MCC specifically designed to identify the sale of firearm and ammunition retailers.
- While major U.S. credit card companies have not yet adopted this new MCC, its use has the potential to constitute a national gun registry.



## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits entities involved in facilitating or processing payment card transactions from using an MCC to identify sellers of firearms or ammunition.
- Authorizes DACs to investigate alleged violations and impose a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **83-32**  
SENATE **27-11**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 233

REPRESENTATIVE  
MICHAEL

# DECEASED INDIVIDUALS



The loss of a child at the hands of another is a devastating tragedy. When law enforcement investigates to bring those responsible to justice, the victim's family should never be left in the dark.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Reaffirms the rights of families whose children have been victims of a homicide by requiring law enforcement agencies investigating the crime to keep them informed.
- Protects the integrity of criminal investigations by prohibiting the sharing of information by law enforcement if it would jeopardize the investigation.
- Prohibits anyone who contributed to the death of an individual from being able to participate in funeral arrangements — protecting families from further grievance.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- HB 233 is cited as "Curtis' Law" after 16-year-old Curtis Williamson, who was murdered in California in 1997. His mother, Patricia Ward, had difficulty obtaining information related to the investigation of his death and has since advocated throughout the nation for greater transparency.
- Currently, there are several enumerated rights for families of certain victims of crime, but no specific mandate for law enforcement agencies to provide investigative and contact information to the next of kin of deceased minors who were the victim of a homicide.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires the law enforcement agency investigating the death of a minor to provide the minor's next of kin with information regarding the investigation's status, case number, contact information, and how to obtain personal effects.
- Prohibits law enforcement from providing any of the above information if doing so would jeopardize or otherwise interfere with an active investigation.
- Updates the list of people who may make funeral arrangements for the deceased to remove anyone who contributed to the death of the deceased.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **37-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# SB 250

(HB 7057)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**GIALLOMBARDO  
& BOTANA**

# NATURAL EMERGENCIES



**SB 250 helps Floridians recover from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole and positions the state to be better prepared for future natural disasters.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Prepares local communities for future storms through better planning and preparation.
- Speeds up recovery for communities impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole by temporarily easing land development and construction regulations — and enacts similar policies for communities impacted by any future disasters.
- Expands dedicated state funding for local governments in times of great need.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2022, Hurricanes Ian and Nicole brought historic inland flooding and coastal damage to Central Florida, along with billions of dollars in damages throughout the state.
- Ian's historic flooding exposed weaknesses in the region's infrastructure, and Nicole brought even more flooding to already inundated inland communities — and a devastating storm surge to the coastal regions.



## BILL BASICS

- Encourages local governments to create emergency financial plans in preparation for major natural disasters.
- Allows registered contractors to engage in contracting for the types of work covered by their registration in an area impacted by a natural emergency.
- Directs local governments to expedite the issuance of permits following a natural disaster, authorizes local governments to create specialized building inspection teams following a natural disaster, and encourages interlocal agreements for inspection services.
- Extends the performance review deadline to January 1, 2024 for independent special fire control districts located within 50 miles of where Hurricane Ian made landfall.
- Prohibits counties and municipalities located entirely or partially within 100 miles of landfall of Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole from adopting more restrictive land development regulations before October 1, 2024 (applies retroactively to September 28, 2022.)
- Protects public utilities from being liable for damages based on changes in the reliability, continuity, or quality of utility services which arise out of an emergency or disaster.
- Requires the Division of Emergency Management to create best practices for debris removal and administer a revolving loan program for community hazard mitigation projects.
- Establishes the Local Government Emergency Bridge Program as a revolving program through July 1, 2038.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 109-4  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



**Data privacy protections are important to protect personal information for both adults and children because personal information can be used to affect our decisions and shape our behavior. Additionally, data privacy is even more important to protect our children from online harm.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects Floridians' personal information — and gives them more control over it — with comprehensive data privacy protections.
- Creates additional, dedicated protections for our children to keep them and their data safe.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The consumer data privacy protections apply to large businesses which buy or sell personal data of Florida consumers.
  - Does not apply to businesses which collect a consumer's personal information to advertise their own goods and services.
  - Does not apply to businesses directed by a consumer to share their personal data with a third party, either by an intentional interaction or agreement.
- The children's technology protections apply to social media platforms predominantly accessed by children.



## BILL BASICS

- CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY
  - Creates Right to Know — Gives consumers the right to know what information a business has collected about them.
  - Creates Right to Delete — Allows consumers to request to delete or correct certain personal data unless the information is crucial to maintaining the person's account.
  - Creates Right to Opt-Out — Requires businesses to allow consumers to "opt out" of the sale of personal data and collection of sensitive data, giving consumers more control over their personal information.
  - Requires Privacy Procedures — Allows consumers to make informed decisions.
    - Directs businesses to let consumers know how their personal data will be collected and disseminated.
    - Requires express consent to use data collected from a device with an electronic, visual, thermal, or olfactory feature for the purpose of surveillance when such features are not in active use.
- CHILDREN'S TECHNOLOGY PROTECTIONS
  - Protects kids' personal information by preventing the platform from collecting, selling, or sharing it if they know it may result in substantial harm or risk to the child.
  - Prevents platforms from using deception or dark patterns to encourage children to provide personal information or deceive them into making unintended or harmful decisions.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **110-2**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**



# HB 639

REPRESENTATIVE  
ESPOSITO

# ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL BEVERAGE LICENSES



Small businesses — especially restaurants — play an integral role in our communities. HB 639 addresses disparities between what types of restaurants may receive beverage licenses.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Levels the playing field for large and small establishments by decreasing facility size requirements for restaurant beverage licenses.
- Elevates small businesses statewide and in our local communities by relieving the burden on small restaurants in obtaining licenses to serve liquor.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A “special license” is an exception to the quota licensing scheme, which allows certain entities to serve liquor without a quota license.
- One such special license is a “special food service license” (SFS license), which applies to a food service establishment that: has 2,500 square feet; is equipped to serve 150 persons at one time; and derives at least 51% of its gross food and beverage revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages.



## BILL BASICS

- Lowers requirements for certain food service establishments to qualify for an SFS license by reducing the minimum service area to 2,000 square feet and service capacity to 120 persons
- Expands beach or cabana club beverage license criteria to include clubs with:
  - Locker room or bathroom facilities for at least 100 persons; or
  - Any type of public food service establishment of any seating size, instead of a restaurant with seats with tables for at least 100 persons.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 107-0  
SENATE 40-0

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



**Our pets are part of the family. HB 719 increases access to voluntary veterinary care, so our furry friends can live active and fulfilling lives.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Expands delivery of important veterinary services for cats and dogs by allowing veterinarians licensed in another state to volunteer their services in Florida.
- Creates a narrow exemption to existing requirements for out-of-state veterinarians to volunteer under an existing practice in Florida.
- Limits the types of services which can be provided and places safeguards to ensure safe, supervised care.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- According to reports, a recent increase in household pet ownership has contributed to a shortage of veterinarians in the U.S.
- Veterinarians are regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- The “practice act” provides requirements for licensure by examination, licensure of qualified out-of-state veterinarians by endorsement, premises permitting, prohibitions and penalties, and grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.



## BILL BASICS

- Allows out-of-state veterinarians to perform sterilization services, and routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization, under certain circumstances.
- Creates an exemption from the practice act for veterinarians who:
  - Hold an active license, in good standing, in another state; and
  - Perform dog or cat sterilization services or routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization as an unpaid volunteer under supervision of a Florida veterinarian.
- Specifies the supervising licensed veterinarian is responsible for all acts performed.



Property insurance policies should reward homeowners who take steps to strengthen their home's resiliency to storms and inclement weather. HB 799 makes several adjustments to property insurance regulation.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Ensures insurance companies properly factor in and provide rate discounts for policyholders who harden their homes against wind damage.
- Promotes the efficiency of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens) by making improvements to its internal processes.
- Expands accountability in flood coverage required by windstorm policies.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Residential property insurers must provide credits, discounts, other rate differentials, or appropriate reductions in deductibles to reduce insurance premiums for properties with mitigation features which protect against windstorm damage or loss (i.e. hurricane shutters and wind-resistant windows and doors).
- A residential property insurance rate filing with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) must account for mitigation measures that policyholders undertake to reduce hurricane losses — but not windstorm losses.



## BILL BASICS

- Windstorm Coverage
  - Requires a property insurer's residential rate filing to allow for appropriate discounts for mitigation measures to reduce the potential for windstorm losses, including wind uplift prevention.
  - Provides a \$750,000 nonrecurring appropriation to OIR to conduct a wind-loss mitigation study.
- Citizens
  - Provides the "glidepath" normally imposed on Citizens rates does not apply to policies where coverage for the risk insured by Citizens was last provided by an insurer determined by OIR to be unsound or placed into receivership due to impairment or insolvency.
  - Eliminates the requirement for condominium owners insured by Citizens to purchase flood insurance.
- Flood Coverage Required by Windstorm Policies
  - Improves insurer verification of whether a policyholder or applicant has such coverage, when required.
  - Clarifies authority to deny a wind claim if flood coverage was not in effect.

# HB 869

REPRESENTATIVE  
McCLAIN

# DEPT. OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION



The Florida Legislature is committed to removing barriers to work and reducing unnecessary occupational and business licensing requirements.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Continues Florida's commitment to reducing barriers to work by reducing burdensome licensing requirements in various fields.
- Promotes economic development by modernizing regulation while safeguarding consumers.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is responsible for licensing and regulating various businesses and professions throughout the state.
- This includes restaurants, hotels, retail sales of alcohol and nicotine products, building safety, and timeshares.
- In 2019, the Legislature created a pathway that allowed registered local electrical and alarm contractors to have their local registration converted into a certified statewide license by the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board. This "grandfathering provision" had an application deadline of November 1, 2021, and was no longer available.

## BILL BASICS

- Provides a pathway for licensure for out-of-state mold-related or asbestos licensed professionals and reinstates the pathway for certain local electrical and fire alarm contractors to be licensed statewide.
- Modernizes regulation of public lodging and food service establishments by allowing certain communications and requirements to be administered online.
- Clarifies several regulations regarding boxing, nicotine products, energy code compliance, and timeshares.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 106-0  
SENATE 37-1

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 881

REPRESENTATIVE  
LaMARCA

# MY SAFE FLORIDA HOME PROGRAM



Recent storms have left widespread destruction in our communities — showing the need for greater resilience efforts. HB 881 encourages Floridians to harden their homes and ensure their families are kept safe from the next storm.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Expands eligibility for Floridians to inspect and harden their homes through the My Safe Florida Home (MSFH) Program.
- Improves the MSFH Program by streamlining administration and focusing funding on those who need it most.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The MSFH Program provides inspections of single-family residential properties to determine what mitigation measures are needed, premium discounts are available, and improvements can be made to reduce susceptibility to hurricane damage.
- It also provides mitigation grants to eligible applicants to retrofit single-family homes to make them less vulnerable to hurricane damage.
- Currently, the MFSH Program is limited to homes valued up to \$500,000 that are located within the wind-borne debris region.



## BILL BASICS

- Modifies MSFH Program eligibility by requiring homes to be homesteaded, increasing the value of eligible homes to \$700,000, and allowing use of funds for inspection of townhomes.
- Makes the MFSH Program available statewide and expands grant awards for low-income recipients from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Removes outdated elements from the home improvements list for which MSFH Program grant funds may be used.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 919

REPRESENTATIVES  
PORRAS &  
FERNANDEZ-  
BARQUIN

# HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS



Property rights are a founding principle of our nation. When it comes to homeowners' associations (HOAs), we must ensure a proper balance between the rights of individuals and the common interests of the neighborhood.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Strengthens accountability for HOA leadership by criminalizing voter fraud activities in elections, penalizing improper or illicit behavior, and expanding conflict of interest disclosures.
- Prohibits arbitrary fines outside of established HOA policies and ensures owners and occupants are properly notified about alleged violations and final determinations.
- Promotes responsible management of finances by prohibiting commingling of deposit funds received from members.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- An HOA is an association of residential property owners in which voting membership is made up of parcel owners and whose membership is a mandatory condition of parcel ownership.
- HOAs may levy fines against or suspend certain access rights of a parcel owner for failing to comply with the HOA's governing documents.



## BILL BASICS

- HOA officers and director accountability:
  - Authorizes monetary penalties for accepting kickbacks and criminalizes fraudulent voting activities, such as ballot fraud and bribery.
  - Requires removal from office if charged with certain crimes, such as election ballot forgery or theft or embezzlement of funds.
  - Requires conflict of interest disclosures before any actions relating to contracting as well as disclosure of relationships and activities with the community developer.
- Limits the levying of fines only to violations of the HOA's declaration, bylaws, or reasonable rules and ensures HOAs deliver written notice of alleged violations, including a description of the such violation and how to correct or challenge it, and final determinations.
- Requires HOAs to separate, and not commingle, funds collected from a deposit from a member, such as for construction on a parcel.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **113-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR



**Fraud and excess litigation raise insurance rates for everyone.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Combats fraud in the motor vehicle insurance market by prohibiting assignment of benefits for motor vehicle glass replacement or repair.
- Creates a framework for how insurers and repair providers handle repairs of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS).
- Strengthens the ability for policyholders to choose where to obtain repair services.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Consumers often qualify for motor vehicle glass repair or replacement without paying a deductible. Further, some motor vehicle glass repair shops currently offer incentives, including cash and gift cards, in exchange for a consumer filing an insurance claim for motor vehicle glass repair or replacement.
- This, combined with the practice of repair shops accepting an assignment of the consumer's post-loss repair benefits for windshield repair or replacement under a motor vehicle insurance policy, may have contributed to the steep rise in motor vehicle glass lawsuits over the last few years.

## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits a policyholder or any other person from entering into an assignment agreement for post-loss benefits for motor vehicle glass replacement or repair under a motor vehicle insurance policy issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2023.
- Incorporates ADAS calibration and recalibration in the definition of "motor vehicle repair."
- Prohibits a repair shop or its employees from:
  - Offering to a customer anything of value in exchange for making an insurance claim for motor vehicle glass replacement or repair, including ADAS calibration or recalibration.
  - Failing to provide electronic or written notice to the customer as to whether the calibration or recalibration of ADAS is required as part of the replacement or repair of motor vehicle glass.

# HB 1091

REPRESENTATIVE  
ALVAREZ

# LICENSING FEE RELIEF



**HB 1091 promotes job growth and puts money back in the pockets of hard-working Floridians by reducing the cost of obtaining DBPR professional licenses.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Reduces the strain on family budgets by lowering the financial burden of professional license fees.
- Promotes job growth and expands spending power through temporarily reduced license fees.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Professionals who will benefit from these fee waivers include: barbers, cosmetologists, construction industry contractors, home inspectors, real estate brokers and associates, real estate appraisers, electrical contractors, asbestos consultants and contractors, mold-related services, building code professionals, architects, interior designers, landscape architects, community association managers, auctioneers, accountants, athlete agents, employee leasing companies, engineers, geologists, harbor pilots, talent agencies, and veterinarians.



## BILL BASICS

- Temporarily reduces initial and renewal fees imposed by DBPR by 50% (up to \$200 per year per license) until July 1, 2025.
- Dedicates \$50 million from available state reserves to fund the 2-year fee waiver.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **37-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR





**HB 1185 includes several consumer protections: more penalties for crowd-funding fraud, more accountability for public adjusters and insurer advertisements, and consumer protections for hurricane-related property insurance claims.**

### **MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Enhances consumer protection by ensuring crowd-funding platforms collect and retain information about organizers of disaster-related campaigns to aid law enforcement investigations.
- Limits the application of a hurricane deductible to apply to only the loss caused by a hurricane.
- Reduces the time an insurer has to cancel a policy during the underwriting period from 90 days to 60 days, but continues to allow Citizens 90 days to underwrite when it assumes policies from failed insurers.

### **CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- Responses to natural disasters, including hurricanes, often include crowd-funding campaigns to raise money to help people in need. Unfortunately, some of these are scams that prey on people's willingness to help disaster victims. Online crowd-funding platforms receive donations and distribute them without oversight and may be unable to determine whether organizers use funds appropriately.
- Property insurance policies typically include a deductible and a higher deductible applicable to hurricane losses. Before HB 1185, Florida law provided a broad timeframe during which a hurricane was deemed to be "affecting the state," which resulted in policyholders having to pay the higher hurricane deductible.

### **BILL BASICS**

- Protects donors to disaster victims by increasing consumer protections for online crowd-funding campaigns and ensuring platforms cooperate with law enforcement in fraud investigations.
- Lowers out-of-pocket costs for policyholders by limiting the application of the higher hurricane deductible to only those losses actually caused by a hurricane.
- Increases transparency by requiring additional disclosures in public adjuster and insured or claimant contracts.

# HB 1209

REPRESENTATIVE  
SHOAF

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Florida is growing every day, and we must ensure the infrastructure needs of our rural communities are met.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Increases state investment in infrastructure in our rural communities by expanding eligibility and opportunities within the Rural Infrastructure Fund.
- Expands state agency assistance to local governments to offset financial burdens.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Rural Infrastructure Fund is a grant program created to facilitate the planning, preparing, and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities.
- Presently, the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) may award grants for up to 50% of the total infrastructure project cost.
- Eligible uses of funds include improvements to public infrastructure for industrial or commercial sites, upgrades to or development of public tourism infrastructure, and improvements to broadband Internet service and access in unserved or underserved rural communities.



## BILL BASICS

- Increases the percentage of the total infrastructure cost DEO may award for infrastructure funding to 75% as well as for a project located in a rural community which is also located in a fiscally constrained county or a rural area of opportunity to 100%.
- Removes several eligibility requirements to expand access to funding.
- Requires state agency agreements providing state or federal assistance to a county, municipality, or rural area of opportunity to include a provision allowing the agency to pay the county, municipality, or rural area of opportunity for verified and eligible performance.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 1281

REPRESENTATIVE  
BUCHANAN

# PREEMPTION OVER UTILITY SERVICE RESTRICTIONS



Recently, we have seen efforts around the country from big government wanting to enter homes of everyday citizens and determine how they provide for their families. HB 1281 makes clear Florida will protect the freedoms of Floridians.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects Floridians from government intrusion in their own homes and businesses.
- Prohibits local governments from restricting the personal or commercial use of gas stoves and other gas appliances.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Nearly 100 cities and counties in the U.S. have adopted policies, rules, or ordinances that restrict the use of gas-fueled stoves and heaters.
- The gas appliance issue is heating up in California, where 73 cities and counties have adopted building codes that require new residential and commercial buildings to be all-electric.
- Additionally, 26 cities and three states (Maryland, Colorado, and Washington) have building codes in effect, or that are scheduled to go into effect, that will require new construction to be all-electric.



## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits local governments from restricting or prohibiting the use of an appliance, including a stove or grill, which uses specific types or fuel sources of energy production.
- Provides an exception for circumstances in which the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code must be enforced.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 98-16  
SENATE 33-4

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 1418

(HB 745)

REPRESENTATIVE  
**McFARLAND**

# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS



The technological advancement of our emergency operations, including 911 services, is vital to saving lives. SB 1418 moves Florida toward an enhanced and more efficient statewide emergency communication system.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Updates outdated government infrastructure by advancing the implementation of a new and improved 911 service, Next Generation 911 (NG911).
- Modernizes current law to reflect the upgrade from the current 911 service to the new one.
- Ensures Floridians will be able to reach first responders in a timely manner during an emergency.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- NG911 is intended to replace the nation's analog 911 infrastructure that has been in place for decades. The technology will enhance emergency number services by creating a faster, more resilient system that allows digital information (e.g., voice, photos, videos, text messages) to flow seamlessly through the 911 network.
- To fund Florida's 911 system, phone service providers collect a fee from their customers based on each active phone line or number with access to the 911 system.



## BILL BASICS

- Renames the E911 Board as the Emergency Communications Board and reorganizes and streamlines the board to better represent 911 service providers and other public safety agencies.
- Establishes new duties for the board, including promoting interoperability between public safety answering points (PSAPs), investing in public safety communications and technology for NG911, and providing technical assistance and guidance to rural counties.
- Expands the list of items the board may fund with proceeds from the 911 service fee to achieve these purposes.
- Requires the Division of Telecommunications to develop a plan to upgrade all 911 PSAPs within the state to allow for inter-jurisdictional call transfers by December 30, 2033.
- Standardizes the 911 service fee by renaming the fee the Public Safety Emergency Communications System fee, making the fee uniform and statewide, and removing an exception for certain counties.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **37-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 1438**  
(HB 1423)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
FINE

# PROTECTION OF CHILDREN



**Adult performances are for adults — not children. SB 1438 protects children by holding anyone who exposes a child to an adult performance accountable.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Shields young, impressionable children from sexual content by prohibiting an individual from knowingly admitting a child to an adult live performance.
- Holds a private venue accountable if it admits a child to an adult live performance.
- Prohibits any state or local governmental entity from issuing a permit or authorizing a person to conduct a performance violating these protections for children.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A licensed vendor of alcoholic beverages was alleged to have hosted “A Drag Queen Christmas” on its premises last December. The six-count complaint alleges that the show did not provide notice about the sexually explicit nature of the performance but initially stated that all ages were welcome.
- The bill defines adult live performance as any show, exhibition, or other presentation in front of a live audience which, in whole or in part, depicts or simulates ‘nudity,’ ‘sexual conduct,’ ‘sexual excitement,’ ‘specific sexual activities’ as those terms are defined in s. 847.001, F.S., ‘lewd conduct,’ or the ‘lewd exposure of prosthetic or imitation genitals or breasts’ when it:
  - predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest; and
  - is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community of this state as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for the age of the child present, and taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the age of the child present.”



## BILL BASICS

- Creates a first-degree misdemeanor for an individual who knowingly admits a child to an adult live performance.
- Allows DBPR to suspend or revoke the license of and impose fines on a private venue which admits a child to an adult live performance.
- Prohibits a governmental entity from issuing permits for a performance which would violate the prohibition on allowing a child to be admitted to an adult live performance.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **82-32**  
SENATE **28-12**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1521

REPRESENTATIVE  
PLAKON

# FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BASED ON SEX



Everyone deserves to feel comfortable in the restroom. The “Safety in Private Spaces Act” ensures the safety of all Floridians by requiring the use of common decency standards in private spaces.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes safety and privacy in private spaces by requiring public entities which maintain a restroom or changing facility to have separately designated restrooms and changing facilities for females and males or a unisex restroom or changing facility.
- Expands the criminal trespass offense to include an adult who willfully enters a certain restroom designated for the opposite sex and refuses to leave when asked to do so — with common sense exceptions.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, restroom requirements are based on a public building’s capacity to determine how many restrooms should be built. However, requirements for restrooms may differ depending on the type of building or business.
- The bill defines “covered entities” to include state and local public buildings, educational institutions, correctional institutions, juvenile institutions, and detention facilities.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires all covered entities maintaining a restroom or changing facility (facility) to have such facilities separately designated for males and females or have a unisex facility.
- Provides the failure to depart a facility designated for the opposite sex by persons other than the covered entity’s employees constitutes the offense of trespass.
- Provides common-sense exceptions like emergencies, law enforcement, or a parent assisting their child.
- Authorizes the Attorney General to take enforcement action against covered entities found to have willfully violated the requirements.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **80-36**  
SENATE **26-12**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# SB 1718

(HB 1617)

REPRESENTATIVES

**MICHAEL  
& JACQUES**

# IMMIGRATION



Unfortunately, the federal government has failed to stop illegal immigration and continues to allow dangerous criminals to illegally cross our borders and harm Floridians. SB 1718 addresses the border crisis and affirms Florida as a law and order state.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects American jobs by requiring private employers with 25 or more employees to use E-Verify for new hires.
- Gives law enforcement more tools to combat illegal immigration to keep communities safe.
- Combats policies which incentivize illegal immigration, identifies the costs of illegal immigration on our health care system, and funds the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2020, Border Patrol had 646,822 enforcement actions. In 2021, that total increased to over 1.9 million actions, an increase of over 200%. The Border Patrol's total enforcement actions in 2022 was about 2.8 million, another 41 percent increase, and to date for 2023, the total is already over 1 million.
- E-Verify is an internet-based system through which an employer can verify that a newly hired employee is authorized to work in the United States. The system is free for employers to use and provides an automated link to government records to help employers confirm the employment eligibility of new hires.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires private employers with 25 or more employees to use the free, internet-based E-Verify System for new employees.
- Strengthens penalties for human traffickers by increasing penalties for the crime of human smuggling when it involves a minor, more than 5 people, or repeat offenders so it is punishable by a sentence in prison for up to 15 years.
- Requires persons in custody of a law enforcement agency and subject to an immigration detainer to submit DNA to the statewide DNA database.
- Invalidates driver's licenses issued by another state to undocumented immigrants and prohibits local governments from funding community ID cards for individuals unlawfully in the country.
- Removes the authority for unauthorized immigrants to be admitted to the Florida Bar.
- Requires hospitals to inquire about immigration status anonymously.
- Provides \$12 million to the Division of Emergency Management for the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **83-36**  
SENATE **27-10**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 7041

REPRESENTATIVES  
SIROIS &  
DUGGAN

# SPACE FLORIDA



Florida has been, and remains, the world's leader in space flight. HB 7041 sends a clear message to the aerospace industry — Florida is open for business.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Enacts meaningful reforms to Space Florida, the lead state entity tasked with promoting and fostering the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry.
- Increases collaboration with public and private stakeholders and ensures effective and efficient use of taxpayer funds.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Established by the Legislature in 2006, Space Florida was created to promote and foster the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in this state.
- Space Florida is governed by a 13-member independent board of directors, consisting of the 12 private sector members of the Enterprise Florida, Inc. board of directors, who are appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, plus the Governor or Governor's designee, who is a voting member and serves as the chair.



## BILL BASICS

- Increases collaboration with public and private stakeholders regarding spaceport activities by requiring Space Florida to seek input from the aerospace industry and the owners of facilities within spaceport territory.
- Enhances transparency within Space Florida regarding spaceport projects, its operations, and the governing board's membership and procedures.
- Separates the Space Florida Board entirely from the Enterprise Florida Board, and creates an independent Space Florida Board with voting members including the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, five members who reflect the state's interests in the aerospace industry appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the President of the Senate, and one member appointed by the Speaker of the House.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **114-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



**SB 7052**  
(HB 7065)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**DUGGAN**

# INSURER ACCOUNTABILITY



**Floridians have experienced rising costs in insurance over the past few years. SB 7052 reaffirms our commitment to reducing insurance rates across the board and increasing accountability in insurance markets.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Increases consumer protections to address the rising costs of insurance rates hitting hard-working Floridians where it hurts the most – their pocketbooks.
- Combats the overly litigious insurance market in Florida by providing a balance in the market and holding bad actors accountable.
- Ensures the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) has the necessary tools to adequately regulate the insurance market.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- OIR provides oversight for insurers in Florida. As part of its regulatory oversight, OIR may suspend or revoke an insurer's certificate of authority; examine the affairs, transactions, accounts, records, and assets of each authorized insurer; and conduct market conduct examinations to determine compliance with the Florida Insurance Code (Code).



## BILL BASICS

- Strengthens accountability measures by:
  - Doubling fines issued to insurers for violations of the proper claims handling practices on behalf of their policyholders under certain circumstances.
  - Requiring residential property insurers to create and use claims-handling manuals complying with the Code.
  - Updating the Unfair Insurance Trade Practices Act to prohibit the altering or amending of an adjuster's report without providing a detailed explanation and recording the changes and who made them.
  - Increasing the maximum fine amounts OIR can levy for violations of the Code by 250% in normal circumstances and 500% during a state of emergency.
  - Providing additional funding for positions within the Department of Financial Services Division of Consumer Services and OIR.
- Increases consumer protection by:
  - Expanding the prohibition on insurers canceling a residential property insurance policy until 90 days after repairs are complete.
  - Protecting policyholders from insolvent insurers by requiring Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to cover property with open claims being handled by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association.
  - Requiring insurers who violate the insurance code to obtain prior approval of forms from the OIR for 3 years after the violation.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **113-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 7054**  
(HB 7049)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**DUGGAN**

# CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY



Floridians should be protected from an unprecedented government overreach which would jeopardize privacy rights and increase government control over their freedom to purchase goods and services.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects the rights of Floridians from intrusion by governments through the adoption and use of a directly issued central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- Makes clear Florida will not allow the use of CBDC's as money in our state.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- CBDC is a digital currency issued or authorized by a sovereign government or central bank as a digital representation of a certain denomination of currency.
- The U.S. has not yet adopted a CBDC, but its use could intrude on Americans' privacy rights and freedoms.



## BILL BASICS

- Amends Florida's Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) to define CBDC and to expressly state "money" does not include a CBDC as the term is used in Florida's UCC.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-1**  
SENATE **34-5**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR



Motor vehicle operators in Florida must insure against losses under state law by purchasing insurance from a state-authorized carrier or by obtaining a certificate of self-insurance after demonstrating the ability to cover potential losses. HB 57 would have expanded options for motorists in the state.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have permitted risk retention groups, which are authorized by federal law, to provide required motor vehicle coverage under Florida law to their group members.
- Would have authorized an eligible surplus lines insurer to provide coverage for commercial motor vehicles.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Surplus lines insurance is coverage for specific risks that the admitted market is either unable or unwilling to cover. While the admitted market is where most consumers find coverage, the surplus lines market is a supplement for individuals and businesses that cannot find coverage otherwise.
- American Contractors Insurance Group Ltd. of Bermuda (ACIG) is a risk retention group that is owned by 41 construction companies and affiliated with American Contractors Insurance Company Risk Retention Group (ACIG RRG) of Texas which writes general liability and auto coverages for its members and is registered to do business in Florida. According to company representatives, ACIG provides auto liability insurance for 17 of its 41 member companies, including 7 member companies that have active operations in Florida.

## BILL BASICS

- Would have permitted the owner or operator of a motor vehicle to provide proof of financial responsibility by obtaining an insurance policy from a risk retention group which:
  - Has an "A" or higher rating for financial strength, and "VIII" or higher for financial size by the A.M. Best Company; and
  - Only provides commercial coverage to its members and shareholders.



**Social media has made some positive impacts on society; however, it can distort reality and display harmful and addictive content, which is especially detrimental to our youth. Floridian's children are not big tech's experiment.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have protected our children from the harmful impacts of social media by instituting comprehensive transparency and safety requirements for platforms targeted for minors.
- Would have directed social media platforms used by children to disclose, in words suited for children, content, safety, and data privacy policies
- Would have ensured compliance by prohibiting schools from using a platform which does not abide by such policies.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Generally, social media use by children can have both positive and negative effects on their health; however, some risks include exposure to harmful and inappropriate content, cyberbullying, privacy concerns, and social interference.
- We continue to see more research highlighting how social media use can impact social development, mental health, and physical safety of children and adults.
- The bill would have applied to social media platforms predominantly accessed by platform users who are under the age of 18.



## BILL BASICS

- Would have required social media platforms to:
  - Disclose, in words suited for children, an expansive list of its policies relating to topics such as content moderation, use of addictive features, safety protections, and data collection and selling.
  - Provide clear access to local law enforcement and safety resources, protective measures on usage and content, and reporting mechanisms for harmful behavior.
  - Require children to read and accept a disclaimer on the potential harms of using social media at log in.
- Would have prevented a K-12 school receiving state funding from using or having an account on a social media platform which does not post a statement on its website ensuring compliance with the above requirements.
- Would have prohibited a public K-12 school from requiring students to participate in social media platforms related to school-sponsored educational activities, while providing a clear exemption for online tools for official business.



The use of electronic communications to facilitate patient health care (telemedicine) could be used to provide veterinary care and services throughout Florida.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have expanded access to veterinary services throughout the state via telemedicine.
- Would have put in place protections to safeguard against reductions in service quality and standards of care.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, a veterinarian must either be personally acquainted with the keeping and caring of an animal and have recently seen the animal, or have made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept before prescribing drugs in the course of practice.
- Veterinary telemedicine is not addressed in Florida law and is not specifically prohibited or authorized in Florida.
- Currently, medical doctors are authorized to practice telemedicine in Florida and establish a patient relationship with a patient evaluation via telemedicine under certain circumstances.

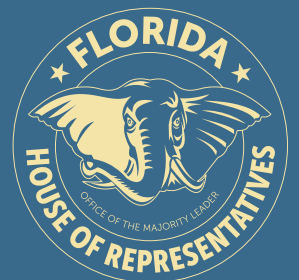
## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Would have created the Providing Equity in Telemedicine Services (PETS) Act to establish a framework for the practice of veterinary telemedicine.
- Would have specifically outlined what services can and cannot be performed.
- Would have limited the practice of veterinary telemedicine to Florida-licensed veterinarians.

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT



# HB 1

REPRESENTATIVES  
**TUCK &  
PLASENCIA**

# EDUCATION



**Empowering parents and students with customizable learning options will not only boost educational outcomes for individual students, but will create competition that raises the bar for schools across the state.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Unlocks school choice for every student, regardless of race, income, background, or zip code by expanding school choice scholarship eligibility to all 2.9 million school-aged children in the state.
- Empowers parents to decide what is best for their child and customize their education.
- Funds students, not systems, by creating empowerment savings accounts (ESAs) to allow parents to use education dollars already earmarked for their child in the public education system.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- For decades, Florida has been a national leader in providing high quality education options for its parents and students. In addition to myriad public options, Florida offers scholarship programs to allow parents of eligible students to register and attend private schools which may better serve a student's particular needs or to provide educational options for students with disabilities.
- These programs primarily consist of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC), the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students attending private school (FES-EO), and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities (FES-UA).



## BILL BASICS

### UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE

- Unlocks school choice for every student, regardless of race, income, background, or zip code by expanding school choice scholarship eligibility to all 2.9 million school-aged children in the state.
- Empowers parents to decide what is best for their child and customize their education.
- Prioritizes low income, then middle income students.
- Creates choice navigators to give parents another option to help customize their child's education.

### EMPOWERMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

- Funds students, not systems, by creating ESAs to allow parents to use education dollars already earmarked for their child in the public education system.
- Allows parents to use ESAs to cover eligible educational products and services, including: tuition and fees at an eligible private school; instructional materials; enrollment tuition or fees; testing fees (e.g., SAT, ACT, AP exams, etc.); curriculum; contracted services provided by a public school or school district; tutoring; tuition and fees for approved preapprenticeship programs and distance education at eligible higher education institutions; and choice navigator fees.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# HB 1

REPRESENTATIVES  
**TUCK &  
PLASENCIA**

# EDUCATION



## BILL BASICS CONTINUED...

### OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Promotes accountability by requiring an annual norm-referenced assessment, with reporting mechanisms, and directing the Department of Education (DOE) to annually publish its list of assessments which meet scholarship requirements.
- Allows the Commissioner of Education to close an ESA if he or she determines there has been fraud or abuse.
- Allows proper planning and coordination of resources by requiring DOE to annually report how many students receive scholarships and annually notify school districts of the estimated number of scholarship students.

### PERSONALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Gives parents the option to direct the instruction of their student through a Personalized Education Program by applying for an FTC scholarship with an eligible scholarship funding organization and creating a customized student learning plan.
- Student learning plans will guide a student's instruction and be updated at least annually, and participating students must take a nationally norm-referenced assessment or a statewide, standardized assessment.
- Provides 20,000 personalized education program scholarships under the FTC for the first year of the program and increases capacity by 40,000 every year until beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, and every school year thereafter, every eligible family wishing to implement a personalized education program will have access to an ESA to customize their education.

### FLORIDA EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP - UNIQUE ABILITIES (FES-UA)

- Empowers FES-UA scholarship students and ensures their unique needs are met by directing

participating private schools to discuss the specialized services provided with parents before enrollment and to disclose a student with a disability attending the school is not entitled to the special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

- Expands access to the program by increasing the annual growth rate from 1% to 3%.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS (SFOs)

- Prioritizes using tax credit donation funds before state education dollars.
- Promotes competition by requiring DOE to open at least two application periods for SFOs and allowing SFOs in good standing in other states to participate.
- Ensures transparency by requiring SFOs to post their scholarship purchasing guidelines online.
- Allows parents to seek reimbursement for eligible purchases from the SFO and allows an SFO to require parents to use their online platform for direct purchases so long as a parent's choice of curriculum or academic programs is not limited.

### CUTTING RED TAPE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Provides flexibility for traditional public schools as it relates to educator certificate requirements, transportation, cost per student station, capital improvement funding, transfer of student records, and the online course requirement for high school graduation.
- Requires the State Board of Education to develop and recommend actions to reduce regulation on public schools for the 2024 Legislative Session including input from teachers, superintendents, administrators, school boards, and home educators.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **83-27**  
SENATE **26-12**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# HB 19

REPRESENTATIVE  
TANT

# INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS



All students who are between the ages of three and 21, and who have a disability have the right to a free, appropriate public education.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Supports families with students with disabilities by ensuring they have access to the information necessary to make the best decisions for their unique circumstances.
- Requires school districts to provide information and instruction to a student and his or her parent on self-determination and the legal rights and responsibilities relating to educational decisions which transfer to the student upon turning 18 years of age.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) enable students with disabilities to stay in school until they are 22 years old. At the age of 18, they become adults in the eyes of the law, and the rights and responsibilities regarding educational decision-making transfers to the student unless there's a guardianship. This means parents can legally no longer sign permission slips, know when legally-binding IEP meetings are, know when their loved one is off campus, or even help make postsecondary education or workforce decisions.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires self-determination and legal rights information must be shared with students and their parents at least one year prior to the student reaching the age of majority.
- States the information provided must include options for maintaining parental involvement in educational decision-making and must include a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act waiver, powers of attorney, guardian advocacy, and guardianship.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 113-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HJR 31

REPRESENTATIVES  
ROACH &  
SIROIS

## PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS



School boards play a vital role in shaping a child's education. When it comes to making a decision at the ballot box, voters have the right to be informed on the values and principles of candidates for school board.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Empowers voters — and parents — by proposing a constitutional amendment to require partisan elections for candidates for school board.
- Would allow voters to choose the party nominees for school board during a primary election, through the same process as other important offices, such as State Representative, State Senator, or Governor.
- Would increase candidate transparency and strengthen the electorate's ability to make informed decisions by disclosing candidates' party affiliations during the campaign and on the ballot.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- District school board members have been elected in nonpartisan elections since 2000, but were elected in partisan elections prior to the change.



### BILL BASICS

- Proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution requiring candidates for district school boards to be elected in partisan races.
- If approved in the 2024 General Election, the amendment will go into effect beginning with the 2026 election cycle.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 79-34  
SENATE 29-11

**STATUS**  FILED WITH  
SECRETARY  
OF STATE

# SB 190

(HB 259)

REPRESENTATIVE  
BRACKETT

# INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



**SB 190 continues our commitment to school choice by expanding access to interscholastic extracurricular activities for charter school and Florida Virtual School (FLVS) students.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Expands athletic and interscholastic extracurricular opportunities for charter school and full-time FLVS students by allowing them to participate in programs offered by a private school, via agreement.
- Allows students who don't have access to certain programs at their school to participate in such programs at a private school.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Current law permits a charter school student to participate in a public school's activities when the activity sought is not offered at the charter school and certain participation requirements are met. Similarly, a full-time FLVS student may participate in a public school's activities when certain participation requirements are met.
- Organizations which regulate or govern extracurricular activities of public schools are prohibited from discriminating against any eligible student based on an educational choice of public, private, or home education.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Authorizes a charter school student and a FLVS full-time program student to develop an agreement with a private school to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities at the private school.
- Requires such students to meet existing conditions for interscholastic participation as provided for by law.
- Specifies a charter school student may not participate in private school activities if such activities are offered at the charter school the student attends.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 225

REPRESENTATIVES  
HAWKINS &  
CANADY

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES



**HB 225 builds on our commitment to expand choice in education to all students, regardless of zip code.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Empowers students across the state by expanding student participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic activities and athletic opportunities at traditional public schools, charter schools, Florida Virtual School, and private schools.
- Streamlines and improves accountability in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).
- Authorizes opening remarks in FHSAA high school championship contests.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is statutorily designated as the governing nonprofit organization for interscholastic athletics for Florida public schools. Any high school, middle school, or combination school, including charter schools, virtual schools, private schools, and home education cooperatives, may become a member of the FHSAA.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Expands the ability of traditional public school, charter school, Florida Virtual School full-time, and private school students to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic activities and athletics.
- Requires students who transfer between schools during the school year be permitted to complete the interscholastic and intrascholastic activities in which they participated at the school from which they transferred.
- Revises the FHSAA board of directors and requires the FHSAA's executive director, budget, and bylaws be approved by the State Board Education.
- Requires the FHSAA to adopt bylaws, policies, or procedures to provide schools participating in a high school championship contest or series an opportunity to make brief opening remarks.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 93-22  
SENATE 28-12

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 240**  
(HB 7051)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**MELO**

# EDUCATION



**There are many paths to finding a meaningful career. Expanding workforce opportunities and tearing down educational barriers for students and workers gives them the tools they need to pursue a successful career no matter the industry.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Makes comprehensive improvements to our workforce education system to expand opportunities to all students.
- Improves and expands existing programs and financial aid to incentivize more involvement.
- Increases access to career and technical education in middle and high school, including opportunities for work-based learning, such as apprenticeships.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2019, the Legislature created the Strengthening Alignment between Industry and Learning (SAIL) to 60 Initiative to increase the percentage of working-age adults in Florida with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030.
- In 2021, the Legislature passed the Reimagining Education and Career Help Act (REACH Act) to address the evolving needs of Florida's economy by increasing the level of collaboration and cooperation among state businesses and education communities while improving training and providing for equity and access to a more integrated workforce and education system for Florida.



## BILL BASICS

- Ensures parents and students are properly notified about available workforce programs, career opportunities, and graduation requirements, and directs school districts to host annual career fairs and ensure every high school student has access to at least one work-based learning opportunity.
- Reorganizes the Open Door Grant Program as a financial aid program and increases funding to expand need-based aid for low-income students.
- Facilitates more employer-driven development and investment in apprenticeship programs by expanding and improving the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program, the internship tax credit program, and local workforce development board involvement.
- Connects the Reimagining Education and Career Help Office with the Department of Education, Department of Commerce, and CareerSource Florida to develop statewide apprenticeship, preapprenticeship, and work-based learning models.
- Ensures middle school students who complete a CAPE Industry Certification have the opportunity to enroll in a subsequent program.
- Allows universities to create workforce education partnership programs to provide students work-based opportunities, allowing them to graduate debt-free.
- Provides flexibility to the Money-Back Guarantee Program to expand training and education in more industries.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **114-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 265

REPRESENTATIVES  
PLASENCIA  
& LOPEZ, J.

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMAS



Each student has their own unique pathway. HB 265 ensures students are set up for success by removing barriers to high school equivalency examination.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Recognizes the unique circumstances of high school students statewide.
- Empowers students by prohibiting a school district from requiring a student who has reached the age of 16 years old to take any course prior to sitting for the General Educational Development (GED) exam.
- Removes barriers and provides consistency for 16 and 17-year-old students statewide in taking the GED exam.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida is one of 33 states providing a mechanism for individuals younger than 18 years of age to sit for the GED exam.
- Currently, Florida allows 16 and 17-year-old students to take the GED exam with a waiver; however, the requirements for waiver are inconsistent across the state.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Prohibits a school district from requiring a student who has reached the age of 16 to take any course prior to sitting for the GED exam unless the student failed to attain a passing score on the GED practice test.
- Requires the State Board of Education to establish, by rule, what constitutes a passing score for the GED practice test.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **113-0**  
SENATE **36-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



**The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) movement has become Orwellian — where diversity means conformity of thought, and equity means picking winners and losers. We will return to the highest ideals of higher education: an environment which embraces real diversity of thought, putting all ideas on the table and subject to critical thinking.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Advances the ideals of education, not indoctrination by defunding DEI programs and promoting merit-based achievement over ideological preferences.
- Gives graduates the tools for success by focusing postsecondary education on degree production for marketplace values and productive careers.
- Provides more learning opportunities by expanding financial aid and industry programs and incentivizing university investment in STEM fields.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Nearly one in five professors are now being selected based on not only academic merit but also their commitment to a particular ideological vision. In a 2020 survey, most college students believe efforts at diversity and inclusion “frequently” (27%) or “occasionally” (49%) come into conflict with free speech rights.



## BILL BASICS

### EDUCATION, NOT INDOCTRINATION

- Stops colleges and universities from funding DEI programs and activities — those which violate the Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) or are based on divisive concepts.
- Ensures faculty, staff, and students are hired or admitted based on merit rather than ideology by:
  - Requiring each tenured state university faculty member to undergo a comprehensive post-tenure review every 5 years.
  - Bolstering the authority of university boards of trustees to review and approve university presidents’ selections for high-level executives.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

**SB 266**  
(HB 999)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**ANDRADE**

# HIGHER EDUCATION



## BILL BASICS CONTINUED...

- Prohibiting pledges or commitments to viewpoints, including any political identity or ideology, as part of any hiring, promotion, admission, disciplinary, or evaluation process.
- Shields colleges and universities from retaliatory and adverse actions by accrediting agencies and associations, which may try to influence them to violate reforms made in this bill.
- Promotes civic literacy education by realigning the missions of the Florida Institute of Politics at Florida State University (renamed Florida Institute for Governance and Civics), the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom at Florida International University — and transitioning the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education at the University of Florida to a permanent college within the university.

### GIVING GRADUATES TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

- Refocuses colleges and universities on degree production for marketplace values and productive careers by:
  - Requiring general education core courses, when applicable, to provide instruction on the historical background and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this nation's historical documents.
  - Prohibiting general education core courses which distort significant historical events, violate the FEEA, or teach divisive concepts — which are better suited as electives or specific program prerequisites.
- Strengthens course standards in communications, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics to ensure robust education and instruction.

### PROVIDING MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Expands “Buy One, Get One” tuition and fee waivers for teacher training programs.
- Incentivizes universities to increase investment in education, research, and partnerships in high-demand STEM fields.
- Creates the Institute for Risk Management & Insurance Education at University of Central Florida to lead the way in addressing the evolving workforce and industry needs of the risk management and insurance industries.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **81-34**  
SENATE **27-12**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# SB 274

(HB 517)

REPRESENTATIVE  
RUDMAN

## NURSING EDUCATION PATHWAY FOR MILITARY COMBAT MEDICS



The men and women serving in the U.S. military often develop skills during their service which can translate to professions in the civilian sector.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Creates the "Pathway for Military Combat Medics Act" to award postsecondary credit for military combat medic training in nursing education programs.
- Expands education and employment opportunities to veterans, while simultaneously addressing the critical need for nurses.
- Improves nursing education statewide by adding a primary goal to the Florida Center for Nursing to emphasize strategic partnerships and clinical experience.

### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Board of Governors of the State University System (BOG) and State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, are required to adopt regulations and rules, respectively, to create a system for the uniform award of credit or clock hours based on military training and education.
- Military veterans who served as Combat Medic Specialists can currently receive credit hours for courses in the system, but there is no uniform requirement specific to accredited nursing education programs.
- The Florida Center for Nursing was established by the Legislature in 2001, to address the issues of supply and demand for nursing, including the recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurse workforce resources.

### BILL BASICS

- Directs the BOG and the SBE to develop a list of postsecondary course equivalencies, as well as credit and clock hours awarded, in an accredited nursing education program for military training and education required for service in specified positions.
- Requires the approved list to be used by state universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers to award credit or clock hours, which must be transferable.
- Revises a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to include the encouragement and coordination of the development of partnerships, including partnerships with hospitals to provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 117-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 301

REPRESENTATIVE  
ALVAREZ

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE MAPPING DATA



**HB 301 expands school safety measures by ensuring local law enforcement and public safety agencies are able to respond to emergencies quickly and efficiently.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Enables public and charter schools to receive funds for mapping each school in the district.
- Increases public safety by assisting first responders in responding to emergencies at schools with enhanced mapping data.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Lessons learned from school emergencies highlight the importance of preparing school officials and first responders to implement emergency operations plans. Enabling schools to obtain mapping data will provide first responders with vital information on navigating through the school campus.



## BILL BASICS

- Creates the School Mapping Data Grant Program at the Department of Education (DOE) to allow school districts to apply for funding to map each school in the district, and procure a vendor to provide such data, should the district elect to do so.
- Requires the mapping data to be:
  - Provided in an electronic or digital format to assist first responders in responding to emergencies at schools and for conducting required school active assailant drills.
  - Compatible with software and security platforms used by responding public safety agencies without requiring additional software or a fee to access the data.
  - Verified for accuracy by a walk-through of school buildings and grounds.
  - Oriented true north.
  - Overlaid on current aerial imagery and with gridded x and y coordinates.
  - Contain site-specific labeling which matches the structure of school buildings and grounds, including room labels, hallway names, and external door or stairwell numbers and locations of hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, trauma kits, parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties.
- Appropriates \$14 million to the DOE for the School Mapping Data Grant Program.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 379

REPRESENTATIVE  
YEAGER

# TECHNOLOGY IN K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**We must protect students from the negative effects of our digitally-dominated world, which are taking their toll on childhood development and mental health.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Helps students disconnect from technology addiction — and reconnect to learning opportunities in the classroom.
- Ensures students have instructional time free from distraction.
- Creates a new social media curriculum for students in middle and high school on the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- On average, children ages 8-18 use between 5.5-8.5 hours of screen media per day, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.
- The increased time spent on screen media activities has given rise to various issues, such as an increase in cyberbullying, mental health issues, and suicide rates.
- Additionally, social media use poses a data security risk through the collection of personal data.



## BILL BASICS

- Restricts access to social media on school grounds, unless expressly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.
- Prohibits the use of the TikTok platform on district-owned devices, through district-provided Internet access, or as a platform to communicate or promote schools or school-sponsored clubs, organizations, or athletics.
- Requires district school boards to prohibit the use of wireless communications devices during instructional times, unless expressly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes, and adopt an Internet safety policy for student access to the Internet provided by the school district.
- Creates a new required social media curriculum for students in grades 6 through 12 on the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **114-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 477

REPRESENTATIVE  
RIZO

# TERM LIMITS FOR DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



Term limits improve accountability and ensure new, fresh ideas are introduced by elected officials. HB 477 builds on our work from last year, which established the first term limits for school board members at 12 years.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Holds school board members accountable by reducing their limit of consecutive years in office from 12 years to 8 years.
- Empowers parents and students by ensuring new, fresh ideas in our local public school systems.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Establishing 8-year term limits aligns school board term limits to the other limits provided for in the Florida Constitution, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Cabinet Members, state representatives, and state senators.
- Term limits ensure there are new officeholders regularly, and having new officeholders injects new ideas. School board term limits will help school boards constantly improve the education of students.
- The bill is prospective, meaning school board members reelected to a consecutive term in 2022 could serve another 8 consecutive years before reaching the term limit.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Standardizes school board term limits with the 8-year term limits of other officeholders.
- Prospectively applies the new term limit to terms of office beginning on or after November 8, 2022.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 79-29  
SENATE 30-7

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 551

REPRESENTATIVES  
BENJAMIN  
& FINE

# REQUIRED AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTRUCTION



African-American history instruction is currently required in all Florida schools; however, there are no accountability measures currently in place to ensure the material is taught according to state standards.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Requires school districts to provide evidence showing requirements relating to the instruction of African American history are being met.
- Sets up parameters for schools to report on the materials they are using for African-American instruction and requires them to publicly post a description of the materials on their websites.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Instructional personnel are required to teach African-American instruction efficiently and faithfully, using historically accurate books and materials, and following prescribed courses and approved methods of instruction. Currently, Florida law does not dictate grade level, instructional material, or instructional hour requirements.
- Currently, there is no requirement for school districts to submit instructional material on African-American instruction or post it publicly on their websites.



## BILL BASICS

- Codifies State Board of Education rules, requiring school districts to submit an implementation plan for all required instruction topics to the Commissioner of Education and post the plan on the school district's website.
- Allows the Department of Education to seek input from and contract with state or nationally recognized African American educational organizations to support curriculum on the history of African Americans.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 633

REPRESENTATIVES  
SALZMAN &  
HAWKINS

## K-12 EDUCATION



State school funding should incentivize schools across the state to excel and meet the needs of their students. Additionally, we must ensure state policies do not impede on the education of students of military families.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Repeals an arbitrary penalty for schools exceeding class size maximums to ensure they have funding to continue the mission to reduce class sizes.
- Ensures children of active duty military personnel don't lose out on special academic programs or enrollment in schools upon transfer.

### ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) is the primary mechanism for funding the operating costs of Florida school districts and is the foundation for financing Florida's K-12 educational program.
- Compliance with class size reduction requirements is calculated at the classroom level for traditional public schools and at the school level for charter schools, district-operated schools of choice, schools of excellence, innovation schools of technology, and schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Program Initiative.
- Reduction in the class size categorical funding is assessed for school districts and charter schools out of compliance with class size requirements.

### 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Repeals the penalty for schools exceeding class size maximums.
- For a student whose parent is active duty military personnel and meets the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools: requires the student be enrolled in such a program if the student's parent is transferred to the state during the school year.
- Allows a student whose parent transfers within the state after the controlled open enrollment window to enroll in any school within the state.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 110-3  
SENATE 40-0

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 662**  
(HB 699)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**KOSTER**

**STUDENT ONLINE  
PERSONAL INFORMATION  
PROTECTION**



Technological advancements have increased reliance on online platforms in schools. SB 662 protects our children's personal data from being collected, sold, or used for nefarious purposes.

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Protects the personal data of minors by prohibiting companies from sharing, selling, or renting student information to third parties.
- Enhances online safety for students by decreasing the amount of targeted advertising they receive while using the internet.

**CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- Targeted advertising collects generalized information about students from various sources, including information on race, location, gender, age, school, and interests. This information can then be sold to, or shared with, third-party advertisers, who are able to display even more targeted products and services to students than general targeted advertisements based on the highly-specific information they collect from the student's behavior while using the application or service.
- The Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUTPA) is a consumer and business protection measure prohibiting unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in trade or commerce. The Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) can issue civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per willful violation.

**BILL BASICS**

- Creates the Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA) to restrict the operator of a website, online service, or online application used for K-12 school purposes from collecting, disclosing, or selling student data or from using student data to engage in targeted advertising.
- Prohibits operators using any information acquired through the use of their education technology to create profiles of students, except for K-12 school purposes, or knowingly engaging in targeted advertising.
- Requires operators to collect no more covered information than reasonably necessary to operate the educational technology and implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices to protect covered information.
- Provides any violation of the SOPIPA is a violation of FDUTPA and allows the DLA to enforce the provisions.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **118-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS** **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# SB 732

(HB 845)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**DUNKLEY &  
HUNSCHOFSKY**

# COLLEGIATE PURPLE STAR CAMPUSES



In Florida, we support the men and women in our military, and SB 732 reaffirms our commitment through the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses program.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Establishes the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses program to support military-connected families.
- Identifies participating Florida College System (FCS), State University System (SUS) institutions, or career centers supporting military-connected collegiate students.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2021, the Legislature established the Purple Star Campus Program for a qualifying traditional public school, charter school, or institution accepting educational choice scholarships.
- The purpose of the program is to recognize qualifying institutions which support the unique needs of military families, help military-connected students navigate critical challenges, and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Establishes the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses Program, modeled after the K-12 Purple Star School of Distinction Program.
- Defines minimum criteria for FCS and SUS institutions and career centers to include:
  - Designation of a staff member as a military liaison.
  - Maintaining a web page on the institution's website which includes resources for military students and their families.
  - Maintaining a student-led transition program to assist military students in transitioning to the institution.
  - Offering professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students.
  - Providing priority course registration for military students.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **119-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# HB 733

REPRESENTATIVE  
TEMPLE

# MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL START TIMES



■ Quality sleep is critical to children's learning and mental health.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Establishes appropriate school start times as a zero-cost way to improve both academic scores and mental well-being.
- Addresses the impact of sleep deprivation on middle and high school students by requiring later school start times to be in effect no later than July 1, 2026.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- 76% of public high schools start before 8:30 a.m. and 8% of public middle schools start before 8 a.m. 87% of public charter high schools start before 8:30 a.m. and 21% of public charter middle schools start before 8 a.m.
- Later school times will allow middle and high school students to achieve optimal levels of sleep, which will improve their overall physical and mental health, safety, academic performance and quality of life.
- The three-year period prior to the required implementation gives school districts time to work with parents and other stakeholders to discuss strategies on transitioning to the later start times and to educate the public on the benefits of this change.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires all public schools, including charter schools, to have school start times no earlier than 8 a.m. for middle schools and 8:30 a.m. for high schools by July 1, 2026.
- Requires district school boards to inform and strategize with students, parents, and local stakeholders as they work to meet the requirement.
- Exempts charter schools-in-the-workplace from the requirements.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 92-20  
SENATE 38-2

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 846**  
(HB 679)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**CANADY**

**AGREEMENTS OF  
EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES  
WITH FOREIGN ENTITIES**



**Hostile countries seek to undermine the American way of life however they can, and our education system is no exception.**

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Protects our postsecondary institutions from hostile foreign influence by establishing safeguards for foreign grants.
- Strengthens accountability by prohibiting the acceptance of gifts from a college or university based in a foreign country of concern or a foreign principal.
- Protects taxpayer funds by disqualifying private schools owned by a foreign country of concern or principal from participating in an educational scholarship program.

**★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- Recently, it was discovered that researchers at state research institutions had undisclosed relationships with foreign research institutions from a foreign country of concern. The undisclosed relationships resulted in an investigation conducted by the Florida House of Representatives in 2020. During the investigation, the investigating committee ascertained that Florida state research grants often lacked requirements deemed reasonably necessary to ensure research integrity. As a result, the Legislature approved legislation to address these concerns, but there is still more work to be done.
- Florida law identifies foreign countries of concern to include: People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, and the Syrian Arab Republic. The bill also provides a definition for the term "foreign principal."

**🔍 BILL BASICS**

- Prohibits a state university or state college, including their direct support organizations, from accepting any grant from or participating in any agreement with any college, university, or entity based in a foreign country of concern or any foreign principal.
- Prohibits a state university, state college, or any employee or representative of such entities, from soliciting or accepting a gift in their official capacity — regardless of value — from a college or university based in a foreign country of concern or a foreign principal.
- Disqualifies a private school owned or operated by a person or entity domiciled in, owned by, or in any way controlled by a foreign country of concern or foreign principal from participating in an educational scholarship program.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **119-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 931

REPRESENTATIVE  
ROACH

# POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



Intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity are essential to the education of Florida's college and university students. HB 931 continues our efforts to cultivate public campuses with a wide range of perspectives on diverse issues critical to the public discourse.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes intellectual and viewpoint diversity and civic discourse by requiring each state university to establish an Office of Public Policy Events.
- Ensures faculty, staff, and students are hired or admitted based on merit rather than ideology by prohibiting public colleges and universities from using political loyalty tests.
- Empowers students by ensuring adequate time for student involvement in individual freedom and viewpoint diversity surveys.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Research shows that without support for the principles of intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity, students at colleges and universities may self-censor or feel unable to express their opinions to faculty or their classmates.
- Recently, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education found only four out of the eleven state universities it evaluated had policies which did not inhibit free expression.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires each state university to establish an Office of Public Policy Events to facilitate public debates and forums addressing a range of public policy issues on campus.
- Prohibits public colleges and universities from using political loyalty tests in the hiring, admissions, or promotion processes.
- Ensures adequate time for student involvement in individual freedom and viewpoint diversity surveys.
- Extends the due process protections already designated for student governments to the Florida Student Association.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 82-34  
SENATE 33-5

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1035

REPRESENTATIVE  
GONZALEZ PITTMAN

# K-12 TEACHERS



Teachers have a right to teach in an orderly and safe classroom.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Empowers teachers by identifying a list of rights guaranteed in law to define their powers and duties in the classroom.
- Ensures a safe learning environment for students and teachers by setting clear requirements on the process of disciplining students.
- Expands opportunities for teacher recruitment and retention.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida has been experiencing a critical teacher shortage due to the difficulty of retaining teachers.
- Public schools in the state must comply with requirements relating to training employees and third-party vendors in areas such as policy and procedure, curriculum, professional development, health and wellness, human resources, and school safety and security. Certain training requirements are redundant, overly burdensome, or no longer necessary while other training requirements are necessary and cannot be eliminated.



## BILL BASICS

- Directs the Commissioner of Education to review and identify duplicative teacher training requirements across federal, state, and local laws.
- Expands opportunities for teacher recruitment and retention, and clarifies teachers' rights by:
  - Authorizing state-approved teacher preparation programs to be eligible for the buy-one-get-one tuition and fee waiver for qualified students.
  - Establishing the Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program to assist Florida public high school teachers in obtaining the graduate degree and credentials necessary to provide dual enrollment coursework directly to students on a Florida high school campus.
  - Establishing the Teacher Apprenticeship Program as an alternative pathway for individuals to enter the teaching profession, and authorizing a temporary apprenticeship certificate.
- Waiving teacher certification initial exam and certification fees for a retired first responder.
- Establishing the Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program to provide a one-time sign-on bonus to retired first responders and veterans who become a full-time classroom teacher.
- Empowers teachers with an appeal and investigation process for a school district who may have violated state law.
- Provides a clear disciplinary process for when a student is sent by a teacher to the principal's office for behavioral issues.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 92-22  
SENATE 35-4

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1069

REPRESENTATIVES  
**McCLAIN &  
ANDERSON**

# EDUCATION



**While some public officials and education activists believe they know better than parents when it comes to raising our kids, we believe parents know best.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Refocuses schools on teaching students important subjects like math and reading instead of indoctrination.
- Protects children from inappropriate material by increasing transparency and parental involvement in the cultivation of educational materials.
- Stops students and faculty from being pressured into using or providing preferred personal titles or pronouns.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The bill updates the current process by directing the Department of Education (DOE) to create a standardized materials objection form for parents and specifies materials subject to an objection on the basis they are pornographic, harmful to minors, or describe or depict sexual activity must be removed from circulation within 5 days of the objection, until the completion of the objection process. If a parent disagrees with the determination related to their objection, the parent may request, from the Commissioner of Education, the appointment of a special magistrate to review the objection.
- The bill requires DOE to approve instructional materials used in reproductive health and any disease, including HIV/AIDS, and updates the education code to clearly define "sex" as a classification of a person as either female or male based on anatomy — requiring instruction related to human sexuality in accordance with this definition.



## BILL BASICS

- Increases transparency in how school districts select and use educational materials by making district school boards responsible for the contents of classroom libraries in addition to instructional materials and school libraries.
- Empowers parents to protect their kids from exposure to inappropriate material by:
  - Increasing their role in the process to object to material.
  - Expanding materials subject to objection to include descriptions or depictions of sexual conduct, not just pornography.
  - Ensuring schools properly inform parents about the process.
- Reinforces parental rights in education by prohibiting classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade — which is inappropriate for our youngest, most impressionable kids and best left to parents and guardians in the home.
- Ensures reproductive health education covers biologically-accurate information and requires all materials used to teach the course be approved by the Department of Education.
- Prevents school employees, contractors, and most importantly, students, from being coerced to use preferred personal titles or pronouns.
- Protects students from retaliation or discrimination for not providing their preferred pronouns.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 77-35  
SENATE 27-12

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1125

REPRESENTATIVES  
SMITH &  
HUNSCHOFSKY

# INTERSTATE EDUCATION COMPACTS



Florida is committed to reducing barriers to those who wish to become teachers and educate our next generation.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Reduces barriers to out-of-state licensed teachers who wish to come to Florida to teach.
- Ensures teachers who are licensed in another member state of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) are able to easily obtain their license in Florida.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The ITMC permits teachers with an eligible license held in a compact member state to be granted an equivalent license in another compact member state.
- Once the ITMC has been ratified by 10 states, it becomes effective; at which time the designated commissioner of each member state will coordinate implementation of the policies and procedures necessary to effectuate the ITMC and the streamlined transition of licensed educators between compact member states.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Ratifies the ITMC by adopting the model legislation into Florida statute.
- Updates citations to federal law in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children statute.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1259

REPRESENTATIVE  
CANADY

# EDUCATION



**Under current law, capital outlay funds for public charter schools will almost always be less than funds for traditional public schools on a per-student basis. HB 1259 addresses this lack of parity to ensure equitable capital outlay funding for both traditional public schools and public charter schools within the same school district.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Improves public charter school funding by putting them on equal footing with traditional public schools.
- Protects taxpayer dollars by implementing safeguards for capital outlay funds distributed to charter schools.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Funding for charter school capital outlay is primarily provided by state funds, when such funds are appropriated in the General Appropriations Act. However, if the state appropriation for charter school capital outlay does not meet the funding threshold specified in law, school districts are required to share local capital outlay revenue from the discretionary 1.5 millage levy with charter schools. The Legislature has fully funded charter school capital outlay with state funds in Fiscal Years 2018-2019 through 2022-2023.
- The bill requires the use of capital outlay funds for purchases or leases by a charter school to be at the independently-appraised fair market value and renders a charter school ineligible to receive capital outlay funds if a member of the governing board, or a family member, has an interest in the lessor of the charter school property. It also directs charter schools to attest in writing that unencumbered state funds will revert to the Department of Education and all equipment and property purchased with district public funds will revert to the school district if the charter school is nonrenewed or terminated.



## BILL BASICS

- Ensures local tax dollars are used to fund capital outlay needs of both traditional public school students and public charter school students by requiring, rather than authorizing, school districts to distribute discretionary 1.5 millage revenue to charter schools.
- Clarifies charter school capital outlay funding shall consist of state funds, when such funds are appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, and revenue resulting from the discretionary 1.5 millage.
- Provides a methodology for determining the amount of discretionary 1.5 millage revenue a school district must distribute to an eligible charter school and establishes a 5-year glide path for implementation.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 82-31  
SENATE 29-11

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1597

REPRESENTATIVE  
GOSSETT-  
SEIDMAN

# FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL



Florida is the most military-friendly state in the union. HB 1597 reaffirms our commitment to military families by ensuring children from Florida who are out of state with their military parents do not suffer for it academically.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Provides additional educational flexibility for Florida's military children who are full-time Florida Virtual School (FLVS) students and out of state due to their parents' military duty station.
- Enables a military parent or guardian to request flexibility in assessment administration to participate in statewide, standardized academic assessments while their child is out-of-state.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- FLVS provides online and distance-learning education to Florida students, and requires participation in any required standardized assessments. Servicemembers and their families are often stationed in multiple locations throughout their service. Children of military personnel who are Florida residents qualify for enrollment in the FLVS, giving families more flexibility when it comes to their child's education.
- Existing law requires that unless an alternative testing site is mutually agreed to by the FLVS and the school district or a qualified contractor, all industry certification examinations, national assessments, progress monitoring, and statewide assessments must be taken at the school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance areas.



## BILL BASICS

- Allows a parent or guardian to request flexibility in assessment administration, which must be made in writing to the FLVS at least 90 days prior to the assessment and include written, official documentation of the family's current out-of-state military duty station.
- Authorizes an eligible student to participate in statewide, standardized assessments administered securely by a licensed, certified instructor or education services officer test administrator at his or her parent's (or guardian's) current military duty station.
- Directs FLVS to maintain data regarding the number of requests for flexibility in assessment administration made, the number of requests for flexibility in assessment administration granted, and data regarding student performance on statewide, standardized assessments and make such data available to the Legislature upon request.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 116-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# HB 7039

REPRESENTATIVE  
TRABULSY

# STUDENT OUTCOMES



As our youngest Floridians start school, they must learn to read — so they can use reading to learn. Yet, nearly half of our third graders cannot read on grade level. We must commit to a future in which every child masters the reading, math, and general knowledge needed to reach his or her potential.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Helps students who are struggling with reading and math by expanding quality resources and encouraging parental involvement.
- Improves public education for all students by addressing reading and math deficiencies to ensure every student can succeed.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The three-cueing method is a method of learning to read by prompting students to draw on context and sentence structure, along with letters, to identify words. Research has shown the technique lowers the chances the student will use their understanding of letter sounds to read through the word part-by-part, and be able to recognize it more quickly the next time they see it.
- The bill requires all reading literacy instruction to be grounded in the science of reading — the most effective reading instruction method. Research shows instruction based on the science of reading is proven to provide students the foundational skills needed to learn to read, even for those students with reading difficulties, such as dyslexia.



## BILL BASICS

- IMPROVING READING
  - Encourages parental involvement by requiring immediate notification to parents if their child exhibits the characteristics of dyslexia in grades K-3.
  - Helps struggling readers improve by expanding New Worlds Reading Initiative eligibility to prekindergarten students and enhancing school district summer reading camps for students retained in 3rd grade.
  - Requires district reading plans to describe how they prioritize assigning highly effective teachers to grades K-2 and provide reading coaches to individual schools.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

# HB 7039

REPRESENTATIVE  
TRABULSY

# STUDENT OUTCOMES



## BILL BASICS CONTINUED...

- Grounds all reading instructional strategies — throughout the entire education system from teacher preparation programs and professional learning systems to classroom instruction and instructional materials — in the science of reading, which focuses on teaching five components of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension.
- **IMPROVING MATH**
  - Helps students improve in math by identifying those who need help, providing instruction tailored to their needs, and monitoring their progress to get them on track.
  - Enhances the current coordinated screening and progress monitoring system.
  - Encourages parental involvement by requiring immediate notification to parents if their child exhibits a deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia, a math related learning disorder, in grades K-4.
  - Expands the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to students with a substantial deficiency in mathematics or who exhibit the characteristics of dyscalculia in grades K-5, providing additional educational options for families (\$500 per eligible student).
- **IMPROVING VPK**
  - Sets students up for success by aligning VPK standards with the content students will encounter in grades K-12.

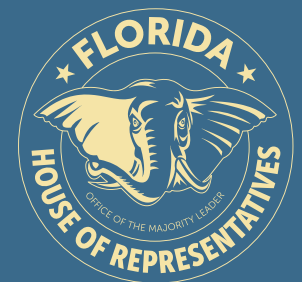
**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 111-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES





The Florida House is committed to protecting life at all stages. We must empower families with the tools they need to help their children grow up healthy and thrive.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Invests in Florida families to promote the health of all children.
- Expands Florida KidCare eligibility to empower hardworking parents.
- Sets income-based cost-sharing to encourage upward mobility and help families move away from government subsidies.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The KidCare Program implements the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Florida.
- CHIP provides federal matching funds to states to subsidize health insurance coverage for children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid and that meet other eligibility requirements.
- Currently, only children in families with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) — \$60,000 for a family of four — are eligible for CHIP-subsidized coverage.
- Obamacare had a negative effect on the private market for child-only health insurance policies, effectively eliminating them. This left the expensive KidCare full-pay plan as the only option for many families.



### BILL BASICS

- Increases eligibility for CHIP-subsidized KidCare programs from 200% FPL to 300% FPL.
- Requires the program to establish new monthly premiums for enrollees in households with incomes over 150% FPL, scaled by income level.



Florida has the nation's third largest veteran population. We must ensure veterans and their families have resources and opportunities to transition to civilian life.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Advances veteran employment opportunities — simultaneously addressing the healthcare worker shortage — by creating a dedicated office to guide veterans and their spouses in gaining healthcare professional licensure.
- Expands opportunities for veterans' families by extending services and benefits, already offered to veterans, to their spouses.

### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Each year, about 250,000 servicemembers end military service as veterans and either reenter the civilian workforce or enroll in higher education.
- Currently, the Department of Health (DOH) does not have a dedicated office to assist veterans and their spouses applying for expedited licensing and fee waivers. Instead, veterans and their spouses must submit applications to DOH or one of DOH's 22 regulatory boards.
- Additionally, current law does not require the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) and Veterans Florida to offer their services and benefits provided to veterans' spouses.

### BILL BASICS

- Establishes the Office of Veteran Licensure Services within DOH to provide information, guidance, direction, and assistance with health care licensure processes for all veterans and their spouses.
- Directs Veterans Florida to assist veterans and their spouses with access, training, education, or employment in health care professions and to refer veterans and spouses seeking health care licensure to DOH.
- Requires FDVA and Veterans Florida to provide spouses of veterans with all services and benefits currently provided to veterans.

**SB 252**  
(HB 1013)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
GRIFFITTS

**PROTECTION FROM  
DISCRIMINATION BASED  
ON HEALTH CARE CHOICES**



**SB 252 builds upon our efforts to stop governments, businesses, and educational institutions from discriminating against Floridians for their personal medical decisions related to COVID-19 mandates, or mRNA and emergency use authorization (EUA) vaccine mandates.**

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Protects Floridians from vaccine mandates and COVID-19 related discrimination across the public and private sector.
- Increases current protections related to COVID-19 vaccine mandates and privacy, and extends those protections to apply to EUA and mRNA vaccines and any other vaccine.
- Safeguards a patient's right to make personal medical decisions about COVID-19 treatment alternatives.

**CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- In 2021, the Florida Legislature took action to protect Floridians from federal vaccination mandates and disclosure policies, and similar actions by private employers.
- The legislation kept Florida free from forced COVID-19 vaccinations, forced student masking, and federal overreach. It kept workers free from blanket COVID-19 mandates by providing alternatives to vaccination.
- Additionally, it protected parental choice on masks, COVID-19 vaccines, and quarantine and empowered parents to challenge unlawful mask, quarantine, and vaccination mandates.

**BILL BASICS**

- Prohibits governments, businesses, and educational institutions from requiring an individual to take a COVID-19 test or wear a facial covering to gain access to or use services, or document vaccination status for any COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA vaccine, or EUA vaccine.
- Protects Floridians from discrimination for refusing to comply with the protections in the bill or current law.
- Provides exceptions to these prohibitions for health care providers and practitioners, as long as the provider or practitioner meets specific requirements, and for when a mask or facial covering is required safety equipment.
- Safeguards a patient's right to make personal medical decisions about COVID-19 treatment alternatives.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **84-31**  
SENATE **29-6**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 254

(HB 1421)

REPRESENTATIVES  
FINE  
& MASSULLO

# TREATMENTS FOR SEX REASSIGNMENT



Little is known about the cause of gender dysphoria, the marked increase in minors seeking treatment, and the long-term effects of such treatment. We must ensure our health care system prioritizes the health and safety of patients — especially children.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects children by prohibiting sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures for minors, including irreversible, life-altering surgical and hormonal therapies.
- Empowers parents to protect their children by granting a court temporary emergency jurisdiction in certain child custody cases when a child is at risk for sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures.
- Strengthens patient safety by prohibiting health care practitioners, except licensed physicians, from providing gender clinical interventions to adult patients.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Gender dysphoria is a behavioral health disorder diagnosable by a health care practitioner in which a person experiences incongruence between one's experienced or expressed gender and birth sex, and meets age-specific diagnostic sub-criteria.
- Approximately 80% of prepubertal children diagnosed with gender dysphoria do not remain gender dysphoric or gender incongruent after puberty, but there is no method to distinguish those for whom gender identity issues may persist into adulthood.



## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures for minors, including irreversible, life-altering surgical and hormonal therapies and treatments.
- Prohibits health care practitioners, except licensed physicians, from providing such prescriptions or procedures to adult patients.
- Further safeguards patients by requiring physicians to obtain, while physically present, informed written consent from an adult patient through a Board of Medicine-approved form.
- Prohibits the use of state funds to provide sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures.
- Creates a civil cause of action for minors for injuries caused by sex reassignment treatment, applicable to injuries sustained from treatment provided after the bill becomes law.
- Grants a court temporary emergency jurisdiction over certain child custody cases — and authorizes a parent to seek a warrant to take physical custody of a child — if a child present in the state has been subjected to or is threatened with being subjected to sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **83-28**  
SENATE **26-13**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 299

REPRESENTATIVES  
BLACK  
& SALZMAN

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED FORMS OF DEMENTIA



In Florida, we look out for our seniors and others suffering from forms of dementia. HB 299 reaffirms our commitment.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Increases the quality of care for those afflicted by Alzheimer's disease or related disorders (ADRD) by requiring training for all employees in senior facilities throughout the state.
- Ensures health care professionals providing direct care to ADRD patients receive additional training above the requirements for other employees.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- An estimated 580,000 Floridians have Alzheimer's disease. The projected number of Floridians with Alzheimer's disease is estimated to increase by 24% to 720,000 individuals by 2025.
- Current law requires certain employees of nursing homes, home health agencies, assisted living facilities (ALFs), and adult day care centers to complete training on ADRD. Employees of ALFs, other than special care ALFs, nurse registries, homemaker and companion service providers, and adult family-care homes are not currently required to complete ADRD training.



### BILL BASICS

- Requires:
  - All employees of nursing homes, home health agencies, nurse registries, homemaker and companion service providers, ALFs, adult family-care homes, and adult day care centers, to complete one hour of initial ADRD training; not just those who have direct contact with individuals with ADRD.
  - Employees of ALFs, nurse registries, homemaker and companion service providers, and adult family-care homes who provide direct care to individuals with ADRD to complete additional training within seven months of beginning employment.
  - Employees of adult family-care homes who provide special care for individuals with ADRD to complete four hours of continuing education annually.
- Specifies an implementation pathway of the new requirements for new and existing employees.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR



# SB 300

(HB 7)

REPRESENTATIVES  
PERSONS-MULICKA  
& CANADY

# PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT



**Our ability to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness begins with life. We must defend the right to life for thousands of boys and girls who deserve to experience life, find love, and enrich the lives of others. SB 300 limits abortion in Florida, and provides additional support to encourage life.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- *Subject to a triggering event which changes Florida's jurisprudence on the privacy clause in the state constitution:*
  - Prohibits abortion after six weeks of gestation unless an exception is met.
  - Enacts patient protections for medication abortions and prohibits the use of telehealth.
- *Takes effect immediately:*
  - Expands eligibility, services, and funding for the Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program (FPSSP) to provide counseling and supportive services which encourage and promote childbirth.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Several different events would trigger the bill's effectiveness: if the Florida Supreme Court recedes from its decision in *In Re T.W.* or its progeny, or determines that the right to privacy in the Florida Constitution does not apply to abortion, or rules in favor of the state in the case challenging the 15-week abortion bill. Alternatively, Florida voters could adopt a state constitutional amendment clarifying that the right to privacy does not include abortion.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# SB 300

(HB 7)

REPRESENTATIVES  
PERSONS-MULICKA  
& CANADY

# PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT



## 🔍 BILL BASICS

*Subject to a triggering event which changes Florida's jurisprudence on the privacy clause in the state constitution:*

- Ends abortion after 6 weeks, with limited exceptions:
  - Maternal life and health.
  - Fatal fetal anomalies, up to the third trimester.
  - Rape and incest, up to 15 weeks.
- Requires abortion-inducing drugs to be dispensed in-person, by a physician, ensuring:
  - Medication abortions are performed by a physician, as currently required by current law for all kinds of abortion.
  - The person obtaining the medication is the same person the doctor examined and the same person who gave informed consent.
- Prohibits the use of telehealth for abortions, including medication abortions, ensuring a medication abortion patient has a direct relationship with a Florida physician who can respond to emergency outcomes.
- Prohibits the use of state funds to pay for out-of-state travel to obtain an abortion except in cases of medical emergencies and circumstances in which federal law requires states to pay.

*Take effect immediately:*

- Expands eligibility for FPSSP, which provides counseling and supportive services which encourage and promote childbirth, adding families with adopted children under the age of three.
- Expands FPSSP services to include:
  - Nonmedical material assistance (cribs, car seats, diapers, clothing, etc.).
  - Counseling or mentoring.
  - Education materials.
  - Classes on pregnancy, parenting, adoption, life skills, and employment readiness.
- Appropriates \$25 million in recurring GR to the Pregnancy Support Services Program, and \$5 million in recurring GR to the Family Planning Program at the Department of Health.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 70-40  
SENATE 26-13

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 387

REPRESENTATIVE  
ROACH

# MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA



**We must ensure safety and access in all aspects of healthcare.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Codifies a policy previously in place under emergency orders during the COVID-19 pandemic, to allow follow-up medical marijuana certifications to be reauthorized via telehealth.
- Directs the Department of Health (DOH) to issue medical marijuana licenses to all *Pigford v. Glickman/In Re Black Farmers* litigants who meet certain conditions, instead of a single license by competitive application.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 16, 2020, the State Surgeon General issued Emergency Order 20-002, authorizing qualified physicians to conduct examinations using telehealth to renew physician certifications of existing qualified patients. The Emergency Order expired on June 30, 2020, thus requiring in-person examinations for renewal of physician certifications.
- Under current law, DOH must issue a single license to a class member of *Pigford v. Glickman/In Re Black Farmers* using a competitive application process.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Authorizes a qualified physician who performs an in-person examination of a patient for the initial physician certification to use telehealth to conduct subsequent examinations of the patient for renewals.
- Enacts penalties for violations.
- Requires DOH to issue medical marijuana licenses to all applicants for a license who:
  - Received a DOH notice of intent to deny or approve, and the application had no deficiencies; or
  - Received a DOH final determination in an administrative challenge that the applicant met all requirements for licensure, even if the applicant died during the challenge process; or
  - Had deficiencies in its application but cures such deficiencies within 90 days.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **105-8**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 391

REPRESENTATIVE  
TRAMONT

# HOME HEALTH AIDES FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN



Sometimes, the best care someone can receive is from a family member. HB 391 expands opportunities for family members to care for medically-fragile children receiving Medicaid services.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Allows Medicaid to reimburse loved ones providing at-home care for medically fragile children by creating the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program.
- Ensures patient safety by creating clear guidelines on delegation of care and training.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, two Medicaid programs pay a family member to provide home health services to a Medicaid enrollee: the Consumer Directed Care Plus Program (CDC+) and the Participant Directed Option (PDO). However, the CDC+ program only reimburses for certain personal care services, and the PDO program only applies to adult long-term care Medicaid enrollees.
- No family caregiver option is available for medically fragile children.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Establishes a program to allow Medicaid to pay a family caregiver to provide home health aide services for medically fragile children meeting certain criteria.
- Creates required training programs and authorizes certain tasks delegated by a registered nurse, such as medication administration, tasks associated with activities of daily living, maintaining mobility, nutrition and hydration, and safety and cleanliness.
- Establishes a family caregiver reimbursement rate of \$25/hour for up to 8 hours/day, and sets performance requirements.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **37-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 783

REPRESENTATIVE  
CARUSO

# OPIOID ABATEMENT



The opioid crisis has hit communities and families across the state. HB 783 continues our mission in combatting this epidemic and ensuring the safety of Floridians.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Enhances the development and coordination of state and local efforts to abate the opioid epidemic by creating the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement.
- Expands the availability of emergency opioid antagonists by requiring placement in college and university dorms and removing arbitrary restrictions on possession and use by healthcare professionals.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2021, there were 6,442 opioid overdose deaths reported in Florida, a 22% increase from 2019.
- Opioid antagonists are used to treat opioid overdoses to counteract the life-threatening depression of the central nervous system and respiratory system that results from an opioid overdose.
- Recent settlements made by Florida with opioid manufacturers and distributors have made funding available for state and local programs to combat the epidemic.



## BILL BASICS

- Creates the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement within the Department of Children and Families to enhance development and coordination of state and local efforts to abate the opioid epidemic and to support the victims of the opioid crisis.
- Requires each Florida College System institution and state university to have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists in clearly marked locations within residence halls and dormitory residences — and provides guidelines for civil immunity for its use.
- Permits authorized health care practitioners to dispense emergency opioid antagonists with a prefilled injection device delivery system, in addition to other delivery systems.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 914

(HB 655)

REPRESENTATIVES  
TRABULSY &  
HUNSCHOFSKY

# SUICIDE PREVENTION



**Suicide is a major public health issue and a leading cause of death nationally. We will continue our investment in mental health services to help those in need — especially our first responders.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Improves statewide policy on mental health and substance abuse by extending and improving the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse; now renamed as the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (Commission).
- Expands mental health services for first responders and authorizes telehealth to diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders under worker's compensation.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- According to provisional data, approximately 3,325 Floridians died from suicide in 2021 — an increase of approximately 7% from 2020.
- The Commission, created in 2021, studies and recommends improvements to the mental health and substance abuse services available within the state. It is set to expire September 1, 2023.



## BILL BASICS

- Renames and extends the Commission's repeal date to 2026 and increases its reporting obligations and required topics to cover including, crisis response services, available funding sources, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline System, etc.
- Authorizes active, volunteer, and retired first responders to serve as first responder peers and authorizes an affiliated first responder organization to designate peers to provide support to first responders.
- Permits the use of telehealth to diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders for purposes of obtaining worker's compensation benefits.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 967

REPRESENTATIVE  
BELL

## MEDICAID COVERAGE OF CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORS



Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) are a vital tool for diabetic patients to use in monitoring their health. HB 967 ensures Medicaid patients have access to these important devices.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes better health outcomes for diabetic patients by expanding Medicaid coverage of CGMs to adults over the age of 20.
- Ensures taxpayer dollars are used efficiently by encouraging the use of modern technology to reduce costs and improve patient outcomes.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- CGMs automatically track blood glucose levels, allowing a person to see their glucose level anytime at a glance. Seeing glucose levels in real time can help a diabetic make more informed decisions throughout the day about how to balance food, physical activity, and medicines.
- Florida Medicaid currently does not cover CGMs for adults over the age of 20 and spent nearly \$40 million on diabetic supplies, including diabetic test strips, in 2021 which could have been greatly reduced with the use of CGMs.



### BILL BASICS

- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to cover CGMs for Medicaid participants if:
  - The recipient has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, or any other type of diabetes which may be treated with insulin, and;
  - A health care practitioner has prescribed insulin to treat the recipient's diabetes and a CGM to assist the recipient and practitioner in managing the recipient's diabetes.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# SB 1190

(HB 1337)

REPRESENTATIVE  
OVERDORF

## STEP INTO SUCCESS WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND INTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM



Young adults who age out of the foster care system can experience challenges achieving self-sufficiency. The “Step Into Success Act” better prepares foster youth for adulthood by nurturing skills and providing real-life work experience.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Creates the Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Pilot Program (Program) within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to expand opportunities for our foster youth.
- Gives eligible foster youth and former foster youth an opportunity to learn and develop essential workforce and professional skills, transition from DCF custody to independent living, and become better prepared for an independent and successful future.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida’s child welfare system identifies children and families in need of services through reports to the central abuse hotline and child protective investigations. DCF and community-based care lead agencies (CBC) seek to work with those families to address the problems endangering children.
- Sometimes a child cannot achieve permanency through reunification, adoption, or another arrangement, and that child transitions to adulthood while in the care of DCF. In these instances, DCF is required to assist children who are transitioning out of foster care to independent living and self-sufficiency.



### BILL BASICS

- Establishes the Program for three years consisting of two components: a workforce education component and an onsite internship component.
- Authorizes state government agencies as well as private-sector organizations to be sites for interns, who must be assigned mentors and, subject to available funding, receive \$1,517 monthly stipends.
- Specifies eligibility and specific program requirements and appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds to DCF to implement the bill.
- Requires the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to adopt rules to award postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for eligible former foster youth participating in the internship component.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 117-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR



# HB 1275

REPRESENTATIVE  
PLASENCIA

# PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REGISTRY



Some behaviors associated with certain developmental, neurological, or psychological impairments can increase a person's chances of negative interactions with others, including law enforcement. HB 1275 seeks to improve interactions between those with disabilities and law enforcement.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Provides an optional, opt-in program for a parent or caretaker to enter a person with a disability to a local registry maintained by law enforcement.
- Gives law enforcement more information to better handle interactions with mentally-impaired individuals.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Some local law enforcement agencies maintain registries for individuals with developmental, mental, neurological, or other impairments to voluntarily enroll to indicate their condition relevant to interactions with law enforcement officers.



## BILL BASICS

- Establishes uniform requirements for the operation of Persons with Disabilities Registries by law enforcement agencies.
- Requires specified professionals to diagnose and certify a person's condition prior to eligibility for enrollment in a registry.
- Ensures individuals may be removed from the list upon request.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **35-2**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 1387

REPRESENTATIVE  
PORRAS

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**HB 1387 makes numerous improvements across the healthcare industry to ensure patient safety, remove arbitrary red tape, and improve health outcomes.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Prohibits gain-of-function research in Florida to protect Floridians from this potentially dangerous medical research.
- Protects our children from marijuana products – and the targeted advertising of such products – by medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs).
- Increases access to safe and more affordable hearing aids in Florida by aligning current law with federal law.
- Makes numerous changes to programs within the Department of Health (DOH) and health care professions regulated by DOH.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Gain-of-function research involves experimentation that may produce an enhanced potential pandemic pathogen (PPP). An enhanced PPP has been modified to increase transmissibility or virulence.
- The DOH Office of Vital Statistics facilitates uniform and efficient registration, compilation, storage, and preservation of all vital records in the state.
- In 2022, the FDA finalized a rule to establish over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids to improve access to and reduce the cost of hearing aids. Florida law currently regulates all hearing aids, and does not distinguish between OTC and prescription hearing aids.



## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits gain-of-function research from being conducted in the state and requires researchers applying for state or local funding to disclose in the application for funding whether the research involves enhanced PPPs.
- Prohibits MMTCs from advertising or producing products which are attractive to children or promote recreational use, and revises background screening requirements for these centers and medical marijuana testing laboratories.
- Allows vital records to be filed electronically, and specifies the timeframe by which the courts must electronically transmit certain records to DOH. The bill also raises the age at which birth certificates become public records from 100 to 125 years.
- Revises examination requirements for certified nursing assistants as well as the application process and revises requirements for EMTs and paramedics performing services in nonemergency environments.
- Aligns current law with federal regulation of over-the-counter hearing aids.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **114-0**  
SENATE **29-11**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 1471

REPRESENTATIVE  
BUSATTA  
CABRERA

# HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ACCOUNTABILITY



**HB 1471 makes numerous improvements across various health care fields to improve patient safety and provider accountability.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes patient safety in the field of cosmetic surgery by establishing additional standards of practice for enforcement by state medical boards at the Department of Health, and giving the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) more authority to pursue unlicensed activity by a provider who has already been warned.
- Protects seniors in nursing homes by enumerating their right to be free from sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2019, the Legislature provided the additional authority to regulate cosmetic surgeries — continuing quality problems indicate that authority may have been insufficient.
- Section 400.022, F.S., establishes an extensive list of resident rights that a nursing home must afford to its residents, including the right to civil and religious liberties, the right to participate in social and other activities that do not impact other residents' rights, and the right to refuse medication and treatment.

## BILL BASICS

- Sets standards of practice for physicians performing gluteal fat grafting procedures in office settings.
- Prohibits certain procedures in an office surgery setting, establishes standards for performing grafting procedures, and includes inspection requirements to become registered to perform such office surgeries.
- Authorizes AHCA to file an *ex parte* temporary injunction against a facility previously warned by the agency to cease unlicensed activity.
- Adds to the list of nursing home residents' rights the right to be free from sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1517

REPRESENTATIVE  
PLAKON

# AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



**Adult day training (ADT) programs provide individuals with developmental disabilities self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Improves the processing applications for Florida's Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) iBudget waivers.
- Creates a licensure program for ADT providers under the auspices of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), and directs APD to adopt licensure requirements.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- APD administers HCBS iBudget waivers for individuals with specified developmental disabilities. These individuals may choose to receive services in the community through iBudget, or in an institutional setting known as an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) through traditional Medicaid administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- Current law requires APD to review applications for iBudget enrollment within 45 days for children under 6 years of age and within 60 days for all other applicants. Individuals who are determined to be eligible are then admitted in the program or placed on the waitlist for services and prioritized based on their level of need.



## BILL BASICS

- Requires APD to complete eligibility determinations for waiver applicants in crisis within 45 days of receipt, or within 90 days if APD has to request additional documentation.
- Authorizes APD to take disciplinary action relating to verified findings of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of a child or vulnerable adult and prohibits a licensee from delegating the ultimate responsibility for the safety and care of clients in its care to others.
- Requires APD to establish an interagency workgroup to identify gaps in information and communication across the lifespan of individuals with developmental disabilities.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 109-0  
SENATE 37-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

**SB 1550**  
(HB 1509)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**CHANEY**

# PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) were originally created to reduce prescription drug costs for health plans, employers, and patients by negotiating prices with drug manufacturers and pharmacies. SB 1550 seeks to improve transparency and accountability in the prescription drug market and ensure PBMs pass prescription drug cost savings to the health plan to reduce costs.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Strengthens transparency and accountability in the prescription drug market by regulating PBMs and enacting common-sense reforms.
- Increases the negotiating power of independent pharmacies.
- Empowers patient choice by requiring insurers to contract with pharmacies meeting certain criteria.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- PBMs, which contract to administer prescription drug benefits on behalf of a health insurer or health maintenance organization, must register with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR).
- However, current law imposes few contract or market conduct requirements.



## BILL BASICS

- Expands transparency in the prescription drug market by fully regulating PBMs under OIR and directing drug manufacturers to notify the state of certain drug price increases.
- Requires rebates to be passed back to the health plan to offset premiums and cost-sharing.
- Empowers patient choice by requiring health plans to meet federal Medicare pharmacy network requirements.
- Regulates the relationship between PBMs and pharmacies, including banning clawbacks, spread pricing and other contract terms, and allowing pharmacies to appeal reimbursement amounts, among other things.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **118-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 1580**  
(HB 1403)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**RUDMAN**

# PROTECTIONS OF MEDICAL CONSCIENCE



**SB 1580 reaffirms, codifies, and protects the two most sacred rights in the field of medicine: the right of medical conscience and the right to freedom of speech by health care providers.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Reinforces our commitment to freedom and individual liberty by protecting health care providers from infringement on their constitutional rights and religious, moral, or ethical beliefs.
- Ensures health care providers are not coerced into providing health care services by establishing a right to decline to participate in any service which violates a sincerely held religious, moral, or ethical belief.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has received complaints relating to conscience rights. One example includes complaints alleging Vanderbilt University violated the conscience rights of two nurse residency program applicants under the Church Amendments by requiring a written promise that the applicants would assist in pregnancy termination procedures. OCR investigated and worked with Vanderbilt to resolve the complaints.
- The bill establishes a health care provider's right to decline to participate in any health care service which violates the provider's sincerely held religious, moral, or ethical beliefs. The bill states this right does not allow a health care provider or payor to opt out of providing care based on a patient's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Establishes a health care provider's and health care payor's right to decline to participate in any health care service which violates the provider's or payor's sincerely held religious, moral, or ethical beliefs.
- Protects a provider or payor who exercises their right of conscience by prohibiting discrimination, providing civil immunity and whistleblower protections, and granting civil enforcement authority to the Attorney General.
- Prohibits the Department of Health (DOH), or a regulatory board within the jurisdiction of DOH, from taking disciplinary action against a health care practitioner for exercising their constitutional right of free speech, including through the use of social media.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **84-34**  
SENATE **28-11**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# SB 1690

(HB 1557)

REPRESENTATIVE  
SALZMAN

# SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery whereby children and adults are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for sexual exploitation or forced labor. Sex trafficking operations often use public lodging establishments, without the establishment operator's knowledge. In one study, 75% of human trafficking survivors reported coming into contact with hotels at some point while being trafficked.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Requires child welfare safe houses and safe foster homes to have a trained individual to provide security services and age-appropriate human trafficking awareness education to their residents.
- Directs the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop human trafficking public awareness signs, and requires certain child welfare residential facilities to post them.
- Increases security at adult safe houses.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Commercial sexual exploitation is a form of human trafficking where the trafficker involves the victim in commercial sex acts such as prostitution and pornography as a means for the perpetrator to make money. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that as many as 300,000 children in the United States are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation.
- DCF offers safe houses and safe foster homes for sexually exploited children in the child welfare dependency system.
- Presently, 13 private safe houses serve adult survivors of human trafficking in Florida. No state agency regulates or monitors adult safe houses.



## BILL BASICS

- Mandates safe houses for dependent children who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation to provide security including, at a minimum, the detection of possible trafficking activity around the facility, an emergency response to search for absent or missing children, and coordination with law enforcement.
- Requires a committee of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking to conduct a study of adult safe houses, and, after the completion of the study, DCF to adopt rules to certify adult safe houses.
- Reduces the time from 90 to 45 days in which a public lodging establishment has to correct a first violation of requirements for human trafficking-related signage and employee training, and requires the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to impose a penalty without a correction period for subsequent violations.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **119-0**  
SENATE **34-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 899

REPRESENTATIVES  
CANADY  
& BELTRAN

# SURRENDERED NEWBORN INFANTS



Florida law allows parents who are unwilling or unable to care for their newborn infants to safely relinquish them at hospitals, fire stations, and emergency medical services stations. One such method is the use of newborn safety devices, or baby boxes.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have options for and the time period in which an infant may be surrendered under Florida's safe haven laws to facilitate the safe and successful surrender of babies who can't be adequately taken care of.
- Would have expanded the availability of baby boxes by allowing more facilities the ability to utilize them.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2000, Florida enacted safe haven legislation in response to tragedies concerning newborn abandonment at unsafe locations, such as public restrooms or trash receptacles. Current law authorizes parents to surrender a newborn infant up to seven days old at a hospital, fire station, or emergency medical service station.
- Since 2000, approximately 361 newborns have been surrendered at a safe haven in Florida. In that time, 63 infants are known to have been unsafely abandoned, of which 31 survived and 32 died.
- A newborn safety device, or baby box, provides a place for a parent in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender an unwanted newborn. The concept of a baby box has existed for centuries throughout Europe, and many countries utilize some form of a baby box today.



## BILL BASICS

- Would have increased the age an infant may be surrendered from seven days old to 30 days old, preventing unsafe abandonment by allowing more time for parents to decide whether to surrender a child.
- Would have authorized hospitals, emergency medical service stations, and fire stations staffed 24 hours a day to opt to utilize newborn safety devices.
- Would have allowed a parent to call 911 and request an emergency medical services provider to the surrendering parent at a specified location.
- Would have authorized a parent, after delivery of a newborn infant in a hospital, to leave the infant with hospital medical staff. The parent of the newborn must notify the staff they are voluntarily surrendering the infant and do not intend to return.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 111-0

**STATUS**  PASSED HOUSE ONLY



# HB 1043

REPRESENTATIVE  
ANDERSON

# MEDICAID COVERAGE OF RAPID WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING



Genetic disorders are a leading contributor to morbidity and mortality in the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units in the United States. Rapid whole genome sequencing (rWGS) enables quicker diagnoses of these disorders.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have expanded the availability of rWGS to Medicaid recipients.
- Would have helped Medicaid patients and their doctors to better identify any possibilities of genetic disorders.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- All organisms have a unique genetic code, or genome, comprised of nucleotide bases. If the sequence of the bases in an organism are known, its unique DNA fingerprint is known. Determining the order of bases is called sequencing.
- Whole genome sequencing is a laboratory procedure that determines the order of bases in the genome of an organism in one process. rWGS completes such sequencing quickly, and can produce a much quicker diagnosis.



## BILL BASICS

- Would have required the state Medicaid program to cover rWGS as a fee-for-service benefit for Medicaid recipients who:
  - Are under 21;
  - Have a complex or acute illness of unknown etiology which has not been caused by environmental exposure, toxic ingestion, an infection with normal response to treatment, or trauma; and
  - Are receiving inpatient treatment in a hospital ICU or high-acuity pediatric care unit.

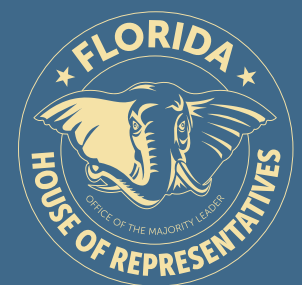
**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 116-0

**STATUS** ○ PASSED HOUSE ONLY

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES



**SB 106**  
(HB 915)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
BOTANA

# FLORIDA SHARED-USE NONMOTORIZED TRAIL NETWORK



Florida is home to some of the most beautiful environmental lands. SB 106 makes a historic investment in expanding opportunities for everyone to enjoy these resources.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Advances a statewide effort to expand the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network (SUN Trail Network) to provide trails for bicyclists and pedestrian travel throughout Florida's protected lands – for the enjoyment of all.
- Authorizes lands within the Wildlife Corridor to be suitable for inclusion in the SUN Trail Network.
- Promotes economic development and environmental tourism in "trail town" communities by expanding connections and coordination.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In 2015, the Florida Legislature created the SUN Trail Network, consisting of multiuse trails or shared-use paths physically separated from motor vehicle traffic and constructed with hard surfaces which provide nonmotorized transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians statewide between a wide range of destinations, such as conservation areas, state parks, beaches, and other natural or cultural attractions.
- The Florida Wildlife Corridor (Corridor) consists of the conserved lands and opportunity areas of high priority for environmental protection. The Corridor encompasses about 18 million acres, including 10 million acres of conservation lands. In 2021, the Legislature created the Wildlife Corridor Act to codify the Corridor and recognize the need to preserve and protect lands and waters which provide the state's green infrastructure and vital habitat for wide-ranging wildlife.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Expands the SUN Trail Network through the Corridor and prioritizes the development of trails which cross multiple counties, showcase Florida's wildlife and environmental lands, and promote ecotourism.
- Streamlines and enhances trail development by the Department of Transportation to improve planning and coordination with local governments.
- Recognizes "trail town" communities and promotes the use of trails as economic assets, including the promotion of trail-based tourism.
- Increases annual funding for the SUN Trail Network from \$25 million to \$50 million and provides \$200 million this year to plan, design, and construct the SUN Trail Network.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **113-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 109

REPRESENTATIVE  
CANADY

# STATE PARK CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS



Florida is famous for its beautiful beaches, secluded springs, and miles of untouched wilderness — drawing tourists in from across the country and around the globe.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Supports Floridians by ensuring they have the chance to enjoy our state's natural areas.
- Offers Floridians a month-long window to reserve camping sites before non-residents can make reservations.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida residents make up approximately 61% of all overnight visitors in our state parks. Visitors can camp in 57 state parks across Florida, 52 of which have amenities specifically for RV campers.
- Currently, Florida state parks allow all visitors to make reservations up to 11 months in advance.



## BILL BASICS

- Beginning January 1, 2024, gives Florida residents an extra month over tourists to make reservations through the Division of Recreation and Parks for state park cabins and campsites, including RV, tent, boat, and equestrian sites.
  - *Specifically, Florida residents may make reservations up to 11 months in advance while non-residents may make reservations up to 10 months in advance.*
- Ensures proper enforcement by requiring a Florida resident who wishes to book a state park campsite in the first month to provide proof of residency.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 107-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

**SB 162**  
(HB 23)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**BELL**

# WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITY OPERATORS



Florida has lost thousands of licensed water and wastewater facility operators since 2000 and continues to have a shortage of qualified operators. SB 162 helps supplement an important workforce to our critical infrastructure.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects the health and wellbeing of all Floridians by ensuring our water and wastewater facilities have enough qualified operators to provide their essential services.
- Expands eligibility while maintaining standards by issuing reciprocal licenses for certain qualified applicants.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the primary regulator of public water systems in Florida.
- Anyone who operates a water treatment plant, a water distribution system, or a domestic wastewater treatment plant must hold a current license issued by DEP. A person must apply to DEP to take the licensure examination, submit a completed application and the required fee, pass the examination, and meet certain other criteria. However, Florida does not authorize reciprocity for operators licensed in other states or jurisdictions.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Allows DEP to issue reciprocal licenses to qualified applicants including water utility workers licensed in other jurisdictions and veterans who performed comparable duties in the Armed Forces.
- Authorizes DEP to issue temporary reciprocal licenses and waive the application fee for applicants during a declared state of emergency.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **114-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 425

REPRESENTATIVES  
ESPOSITO  
& ANDRADE

# TRANSPORTATION



Florida has become a leader throughout the nation in infrastructure planning, development, and safety. This is because we proactively make improvements to transportation efforts throughout the state.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Makes several improvements to transportation planning and development through modernization and the promotion of innovative solutions.
- Increases safety on our roads by updating construction standards and expanding Florida's existing Move Over Law to include disabled motor vehicles.
- Promotes responsible and efficient use of taxpayer funds for infrastructure projects.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida law generally requires motorists to move over a lane — when safe to do so — for stopped law enforcement, emergency, sanitation, and utility service vehicles, tow trucks or wreckers, and maintenance or construction vehicles.
- The Implementing Solutions from Transportation Research and Evaluating Emerging Technologies (I-STREET) Living Lab was developed by several stakeholders, including the Department of Transportation (DOT) with the mission to make significant improvements to transportation safety and mobility, utilizing a real-world testbed environment created on and surrounding the University of Florida campus and the expanding set of diverse technology installed on Florida segments of the Interstate Highway System.

## BILL BASICS

- Requires DOT to establish standards for grading Florida's highways according to their compatibility with the operation of autonomous vehicles and codifies the I-STREET Living Lab within law.
- Expands Florida's existing Move Over Law to include disabled motor vehicles.
- Makes several improvements to infrastructure construction and planning at the state and local level.
- Increases efficiencies in transportation project funding and financing.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **113-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 641

REPRESENTATIVE  
LaMARCA

# RESTORATION OF OSBORNE REEF



In the 1970s, the Osborne Reef, better known as the Osborne Tire Reef, was conceived as an effort to resolve the overabundance of old tires. The Osborne Reef sits off the coast of Fort Lauderdale and although efforts have been made to remove the tires from our waters, a million tires may be continuing to harm our ocean ecosystems and need to be removed.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Refocuses efforts on the restoration of Osborne Reef by requiring the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration plan.
- Increases oversight to ensure efficient and effective restoration.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Osborne Reef is located 1.3 miles off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. In the 1970s, the Osborne Reef was conceived in an effort to resolve the overabundance of old tires in landfills in southern Florida. Nearly two million old tires were tied together and anchored to the ocean floor to create an artificial reef.
- Beginning in 2007, efforts have been made to remove the tires; however, due to the magnitude of the project and its projected cost, not all of the tires have been removed. As of November 2019, it was estimated between 500,000 and one million tires still needed to be removed.

## BILL BASICS

- Requires DEP to develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration plan for Osborne Reef to be commenced, subject to appropriation, upon the completion of the cleanup and tire removal project.
- Requires DEP to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project this year as well as a report upon completion of the restoration plan.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 657

REPRESENTATIVE  
KOSTER

# ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS



Our students' safety is an utmost priority. HB 657 makes our children's routes to and from school safer.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Increases safety for students traveling to and from schools by strengthening enforcement of school zone speed limits.
- Promotes new technologies in the enforcement of driver safety laws by allowing local governments to use speed detection systems to enforce school speed zones.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida law preempts to the state the regulation of the use of cameras for enforcing Florida's Uniform Traffic Control Law. The only cameras currently authorized to enforce traffic laws are traffic infraction detectors, commonly known as red light cameras.
- A speed detection system — similar to a traffic infraction detector — is a portable or fixed automated system used to detect a motor vehicle's speed using radar or LiDAR and to capture a photograph or video of the rear of a motor vehicle exceeding the speed limit.

## BILL BASICS

- Authorizes counties and municipalities to use speed detection systems to enforce school zone speed limits for violations in excess of 10 miles per hour over the speed limit when children are going to or from school and during the entirety of the school day.
- Sets standards and requirements on the implementation and use of speed detections systems and on handling enforcement of violations.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 95-6  
SENATE 35-3

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR



# SB 724

(HB 1181)

REPRESENTATIVES  
ROBINSON, W.  
& SIROIS

## SEAGRASS RESTORATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



Seagrass is vital to the health of our marine ecosystems, but its prevalence has been on the decline. SB 724 takes steps to restore and protect this integral component of Florida's ecosystem.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Establishes the Seagrass Restoration Technical Development Initiative (Initiative) to develop cost-effective innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies to restore coastal seagrass ecosystems.
- Improves development of innovative technologies to improve our water resources and ensures funding for the Initiative by appropriating \$2 million annually.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Seagrass is a grass-like flowering plant which lives completely submerged in marine and estuarine waters. There are more than two million acres of seagrass along Florida's coastline and within its estuaries.
- Seagrass performs many important functions, including maintaining water clarity, stabilizing the bottom of aquatic habitats, and providing habitat for marine life and food for marine animals and water birds. Many animals consume seagrass as food including manatees, urchins, conches, and sea turtles.
- An estimated 7,400 acres of seagrass were lost between 1943 and 1994, and between 2011 and 2019, approximately 58% of seagrasses were lost.



### BILL BASICS

- Establishes the Initiative within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida, to develop cost-efficient innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies needed to restore coastal seagrass ecosystems.
- Tasks Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida with creating a 10-year Florida Restoration Plan to implement the tools and technologies developed by the initiative.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 119-0  
SENATE 40-0

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HJR 1157

REPRESENTATIVE  
MELO

# FISHING AND HUNTING



**“The encouragement of a proper hunting spirit, a proper love of sport, instead of being incompatible with a love of nature and wild things, offers the best guaranty of their preservation.” — President Theodore Roosevelt**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Proposes a constitutional amendment to preserve Floridians’ right to fish and hunt.
- Promotes a way of life for countless Floridians and the successful conservation efforts of sportsmen and women over the last century.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Sportsmen are essential to wildlife conservation in the U.S. through excise taxes, license and permit fees, and organizational membership dues and donations.
- Sportsmen help to recover species, preserve habitats, and ensure state fish and wildlife agencies are properly funded, including enforcement and education programs.
- The joint resolution will be considered by the electorate at the next general election in November 2024. If adopted during the 2024 election, the resolution would take effect January 7, 2025.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to create a new section preserving forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife.
- Takes effect on January 7, 2025, if approved by 60% of the voters during the 2024 general election.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **38-1**

**STATUS**  FILED WITH  
SECRETARY  
OF STATE

# HB 1191

REPRESENTATIVE  
McCLURE

# USE OF PHOSPHOGYPSUM



Phosphogypsum (PG) is a byproduct of the phosphate manufacturing process and has been used in some countries for agriculture, forestry, building materials, concrete, and more. In the United States, the use of PG has been limited to certain agricultural applications and scientific research.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes innovative solutions for industry byproducts by evaluating the suitability of using PG as a construction material, such as for use in road construction.
- Directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to study and determine the suitability of PG as a construction material by April 1, 2024.
- Takes steps towards using PG for road construction.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- PG is calcium sulfate, which is created during the phosphate manufacturing process. For every ton of phosphorus produced, approximately five tons of PG is made.
- Under federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines, PG may be used for certain agricultural and research purposes under certain conditions (as well as for other purposes with EPA approval).



## BILL BASICS

- Authorizes DOT to undertake demonstration projects using PG from phosphate production in road construction aggregate material.
- Requires DOT to conduct a study to evaluate the suitability of using PG as a construction aggregate material.
- Upon DOT's determination of suitability, authorizes PG from phosphate production to be used as a construction aggregate material in accordance with the conditions of the EPA's approval for the use.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 81-25  
SENATE 34-4

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1305

REPRESENTATIVE  
ABBOTT

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



With an influx of people coming to Florida from all over the world, we must make sure we have the transportation infrastructure to handle Florida's growth and promote economic development.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Streamlines and improves statewide infrastructure project funding and development to ensure efficiency in transportation construction.
- Promotes statewide infrastructure by making numerous improvements to infrastructure planning within the Department of Transportation (DOT) and local transit systems.
- Advances Florida's transportation infrastructure, including roads and airports.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Generally, a private activity bond (PAB) is a tax-exempt security issued by or on behalf of a local or state government for the purpose of extending special financing benefits for qualified projects.
- PABs finance projects for a private user, and the governmental issuer's credit usually isn't pledged, but PABs provide a public benefit as well. They are used to attract private investments for projects with public or common utility, resulting in increased spending on infrastructure.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Increases the term for state bonds for federal aid highway construction from 12 years to 18 years and makes numerous other changes to funding and financing processes within DOT.
- Authorizes installation of automated license plate recognition systems within the rights-of-way of the State Highway System for specified purposes.
- Revises requirements for airport development and revises various planning organizations.
- Reestablishes the Greater Miami Expressway Agency and updates various provisions related to it.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 83-32  
SENATE 26-14

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1379

REPRESENTATIVES  
STEELE &  
OVERDORF

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Florida is committed to land conservation and protecting our natural resources for generations to come. HB 1379 recognizes the importance of protecting the natural treasures of our state.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Preserves the natural beauty and resources which make Florida special by strengthening and improving Florida's premier land acquisition programs — the Florida Forever Program (Florida Forever) and the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP).
- Ensures proper use of taxpayer dollars by expanding transparency within these programs and improving inefficiencies.
- Promotes water quality throughout the state by making numerous improvements to programs within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), including creating the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program and expanding a grant program to improve impaired waterbodies.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, which supports a wide range of goals, including water resource protection, coastal resiliency, preservation of cultural resources, public access to outdoor recreation, and the restoration and maintenance of public lands preservation. Through Florida Forever, the state has acquired more than 899,574 acres of land for approximately \$3.3 billion since 2001.
- RFLPP is a land preservation program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services created to protect agricultural lands by acquiring permanent agricultural land conservation easements. Through RFLPP, the state has acquired conservation easements for over 64,361 acres of working agricultural land.

## BILL BASICS

- Improves efficiencies in Florida Forever and RFLPP by increasing the threshold — from \$1 million to \$5 million — for when a land appraisal requires a second appraisal.
- Increases the thresholds for when a land purchasing contract requires approval by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- Requires appraisals under Florida Forever and RFLPP to be shared with private landowners during negotiations for acquisition.
- Directs Florida Forever and RFLPP to prioritize lands within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and those in imminent danger of degradation or which may be developed.
- Ensures long-term success in acquiring conservation lands by annually dedicating \$100 million to Florida Forever.
- Improves various water quality and resource protection plans administered by DEP and establishes the Indian River Lagoon Protection Plan.
- Expands a grant program to provide funding for projects aimed at reducing the amount of nutrients in our waters, ensuring consideration is given to the most cost-effective and beneficial projects.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 1405

REPRESENTATIVE  
TUCK

# BIOSOLIDS



When domestic wastewater is treated, a byproduct known as “biosolids” accumulates in the wastewater treatment plant and must be removed for the plant to continue operating properly. Responsible use and disposal of biosolids is crucial to protecting our water quality and environment.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes responsible disposal and use of biosolids by creating a biosolids grant program within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- Provides direct grants to local governments and districts throughout the state to support biosolid projects.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The majority of Florida’s domestic wastewater is controlled and treated by centralized treatment facilities regulated by DEP.
- In Florida, biosolids are classified as “Class AA,” “Class A,” or “Class B.” Biosolids must be treated to substantially reduce pathogens; the attractiveness of the biosolid to rodents, flies, mosquitoes, or other organisms capable of transporting infectious agents; and the amount of toxic metals.
- Properly treated biosolids may be used as a fertilizer supplement or soil amendment, subject to regulatory requirements established to protect public health and the environment.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Establishes a biosolids grant program within DEP to grant funds to counties, special districts, and municipalities to support certain biosolid projects.
- Promotes projects which:
  - Reduce the amount of nutrients in biosolids;
  - Reduce the amount of emerging contaminants in biosolids; or
  - Provide alternatives to the land application or landfilling of biosolids as a method of disposal.
- Requires DEP to administer 10% of program funds to projects located within an area designated a rural area of opportunity.
- Encourages grant applicants to form public-private partnerships with private utilities and firms, and directs DEP to develop annual reporting requirements for grant recipients.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 106-0  
SENATE 40-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 1676

(HB 1475)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**ROBINSON, W.  
& CASSEL**

# HEMP



**As the production and use of hemp-containing products rises, we must ensure product safety and ensure they don't fall into the hands of children.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects consumers by improving food safety regulation of food products containing hemp extract.
- Enacts safety measures for the production and sale of hemp extract.
- Safeguards our youth by prohibiting the sale of hemp extract products to anyone under the age of 21.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, products containing delta-8 THC, which is derived from hemp, may be marketed as "hemp products," which consumers associate with being "non-psychoactive." Delta-8 THC contains psychoactive and intoxicating effects, similar to delta-9 THC.
- The natural amount of delta-8 THC in hemp is very low, and additional chemicals are needed to convert other cannabinoids in hemp, like CBD, into delta-8 THC. The FDA reports some manufacturers may use potentially unsafe household chemicals to make delta-8 THC through a chemical synthesis process. Some Delta-8 THC marketing may appeal to children and may be purchased online.
- Hemp extracts, including delta-8 THC, may be purchased by children. Current law in Florida restricts the purchase of hemp extract intended for inhalation to those 21 years old and over.

## BILL BASICS

- Requires hemp extract to be produced from a facility permitted by a human health or food safety regulatory entity and meet certain food safety requirements.
- Enacts safety measures for hemp extract containers, including prohibiting them from presenting in a way which is attractive to children.
- Prohibits the sale of hemp extract products intended for human ingestion or inhalation to anyone under the age of 21 and provides criminal penalties.
- Charges the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to implement the new requirements.

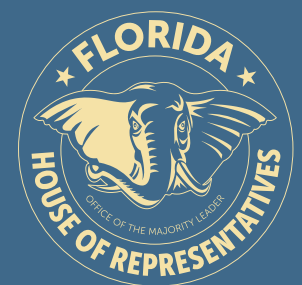
**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **119-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

JUDICIARY





# HB 95

REPRESENTATIVES  
DUGGAN &  
PLASENCIA

## RIGHTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS



**Florida is a law and order state; we must ensure we provide due process protections to those who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe.**

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Reaffirms the rights of police and correctional officers by establishing due process protections and procedures in relation to Brady identification systems which may be maintained by a prosecuting agency.
- Prohibits a law enforcement or correctional officer's arbitrary discipline or discharge by their agency solely as a result of a prosecuting agency determining the officer withheld exculpatory evidence or because his or her name was included in a Brady identification system.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), is a United States Supreme Court case which recognized the constitutional obligation of a state attorney to disclose specified exculpatory and impeachment evidence to the defendant in a criminal case. As part of this disclosure, a state attorney must disclose to a defendant if a law enforcement officer who was involved in the arrest or investigation in his or her case has previously been found to be untruthful, has been convicted of a crime, or has any other issue which places the credibility of the officer into question.
- A "Brady identification system" is a list or identification, in whatever form, of the name or names of law enforcement officers or correctional officers about whom a prosecuting agency is in possession of impeachment evidence as defined by court decision, statute, or rule.



### BILL BASICS

- Requires a prosecuting agency maintaining a Brady identification system to adopt specified written policies outlining protections for officers.
- Gives an officer the right to request reconsideration of a prosecuting agency's decision to include his or her name in a Brady identification system and sets requirements for a prosecuting agency if it subsequently determines the law enforcement officer or correctional officer should not be included in a Brady identification system.
- Allows an officer to petition a court to compel a prosecuting agency to comply with the procedures of this bill, if violated.
- Prohibits a law enforcement officer's or correctional officer's employing agency from discharging, suspending, demoting, or otherwise disciplining them solely as a result of a prosecuting agency determining the officer withheld exculpatory evidence or because his or her name was included in a Brady identification system.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 93-17  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 130

(HB 97)

REPRESENTATIVE  
CASSEL

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**SB 130 enacts common-sense measures to protect children from threats of domestic violence.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects children in domestic violence situations during child custody determinations by ensuring more factors are considered.
- Closes a gap in current law by expanding what evidence can be used to determine custody and provide extra safeguards for the child.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Current law requires a court to order shared parental responsibility of a minor child unless the court finds shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to the child and establishes a rebuttable presumption of detriment under specific, limited circumstances.
- To protect himself or herself from abuse or threats of abuse, a domestic violence victim may petition for a protective injunction. However, under current law, evidence of domestic violence against the other parent, without a conviction of domestic violence, does not constitute evidence of detriment to the child.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Refines the descriptions of what constitutes evidence in domestic violence situations for use in child custody determinations and domestic violence injunction proceedings.
- Expands the list of factors a court must consider when determining whether shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to a child to include reasonable belief the minor child is or has been in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic or sexual violence, abuse, abandonment, or neglect by the other parent.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 117-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 133

REPRESENTATIVE  
MOONEY

# FEES IN LIEU OF SECURITY DEPOSITS



Sometimes, high upfront costs and deposits can deter potential renters from obtaining a lease. HB 133 provides another tool to expand access to housing.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Provides statutory guidelines for a security deposit alternative to assist renters in obtaining housing.
- Ensures safeguards and protections for tenants and landlords, allowing landlords to offer a tenant the option to pay a fee in lieu of a security deposit.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- For a low-income family, a security deposit may be unaffordable, preventing the family from accessing housing, or keeping the family in substandard housing even when the family could otherwise afford to move.
- Recognizing this, some landlords have begun offering tenants security deposit alternatives, including fees paid in lieu of a security deposit; but no statutory guardrails exist for such options.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Authorizes — but does not require — a landlord to offer a tenant the option to pay a fee in lieu of a security deposit.
- Requires a landlord offering such fee to provide written notice, including specified information about the fee, to the tenant.
- Provides guardrails such as requiring a written fee payment agreement, authorizing a recurrent payment schedule, and setting requirements on the process for dealing with unpaid rent or fees and premises damages.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 89-22  
SENATE 31-7

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 264

(HB 1355)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**BORRERO &  
WALDRON**

# INTERESTS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES



**Our national security requires domestically-owned farmland, secure military installations and infrastructure, and protection of citizens' personal data. SB 264 protects Floridians from hostile foreign governments, like the People's Republic of China (PRC), who seek to undermine our security from within.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects Floridians' access to safe, affordable, and abundant food and water by prohibiting a foreign country of concern from purchasing or acquiring agricultural land in Florida.
- Strengthens our national security by prohibiting the PRC from acquiring property in Florida and a foreign country of concern from owning property near a military installation or critical infrastructure.
- Protects the personal data of Floridians by prohibiting certain contracts and safeguarding the online storage of medical data.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Foreign ownership and investment in United States agricultural land has generated significant interest in recent years. Several high-profile incidents have prompted lawmakers to evaluate and respond to the potential impacts of foreign ownership of land on national security and trade.
- In 2022, a Chinese food manufacturer acquired 300 acres of land 12 miles from the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota in order to build a production plant. A staff research report published by the Congressionally-created U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission noted the proximity of the land purchase to the base could make it conveniently situated to monitor air traffic flow in and out of the base as well as other business patterns and security-related concerns.
- The bill defines a "foreign country of concern" as China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, and Syria.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Prohibits foreign countries of concern and affiliated individuals and entities, from owning agricultural land and property on or within 10 miles of a military installation or critical infrastructure.
- Creates an additional restriction for the PRC — prohibiting the PRC, and affiliated persons and entities, from acquiring any real property in Florida.
- Provides a narrow exemption for certain lawfully-present persons to acquire residential property up to 2 acres, as long as such property is more than 5 miles from a military installation.
- Creates a registration requirement, civil and criminal penalties, and a process for property forfeiture.
- Protects the personal data of Floridians by:
  - Prohibiting government contracts and economic incentives with a foreign country of concern, which could give access to personal information.
  - Requiring medical information and patient record storage to be maintained within the United States or Canada, our ally.
- Combats extortion and threat tactics by a foreign agent by increasing criminal penalties.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **95-17**  
SENATE **31-8**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 269

REPRESENTATIVES  
CARUSO  
& FINE

# PUBLIC NUISANCES



Florida has recently seen an ominous wave of hate speech and crimes directed at those of different religious or ethnic backgrounds — HB 269 takes steps to make it clear there is no place for hate and antisemitism in Florida.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Updates public nuisance laws to prevent harassment based on religious or ethnic heritage, littering for the purposes of threatening or intimidating another, or displaying or projecting imagery on private property without the owner's consent.
- Further protects our religious assemblies, schools, and state university and college campuses from threatening and intimidating behavior.
- Ensures adequate tracking of hate crimes.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- According to the Anti-Defamation League, Florida saw a total of 269 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2022 — a 42% increase from 2021, and an all-time high. This figure is more than double the number of incidents recorded in the state in 2020.

## BILL BASICS

- Makes several changes relating to public nuisances — and classifies such violations as first-degree misdemeanors — by prohibiting a person from:
  - Intentionally dumping litter onto private property for the purpose of intimidating or threatening the owner, resident, or invitee of such property.
  - Willfully and maliciously harassing or intimidating another person based on the person's wearing or displaying of any indicia relating to any religious or ethnic heritage.
  - Knowingly and intentionally displaying or projecting, using any medium, an image onto a building, structure, or other property without the written consent of the owner.
- Creates a first-degree misdemeanor if a person willfully enters the campus of a state university or college for the purpose of threatening or intimidating another person, is asked by the university or college to leave, and refuses to do so.
- Updates an existing prohibition against disturbing schools and religious assemblies and increases the penalty for a violation from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony if the offender makes a credible threat while committing the violation.
- Requires a violation of any of the offenses created by the bill to be reported as a hate crime under certain circumstances.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 112-0  
SENATE 40-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 360**  
(HB 85)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**SNYDER**

**CAUSES OF ACTION  
BASED ON IMPROVEMENTS  
TO REAL PROPERTY**



**Frivolous litigation impacts costs for all Floridians — including housing prices. Clarifying when a lawsuit may arise due to a defect in the construction or improvement of real property will rein in litigation costs and ensure good claims move forward.**

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Limits excessive litigation by adjusting the timeframe within which a property owner may sue a builder for alleged construction defects.
- Mitigates skyrocketing construction costs by driving down litigation costs.
- Keeps Florida competitive by implementing common-sense reform to construction defect claims.

**CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- A “construction defect” is a deficiency in, or arising out of, the design, specifications, surveying, planning, supervision, or observation of construction, or the construction, repair, alteration, or remodeling of real property, and includes a Florida Building Code (“Building Code”) violation.
- Causes of action which may be available for a construction defect claim include breach of contract or warranty, fraud, negligence, and a statutory cause of action under s. 553.84, F.S., for Building Code violations.
- For a latent (not easily discoverable) defect, the four-year statute of limitations begins to run on the date the defect was discovered or should have reasonably been discovered with due diligence. In any event, the applicable statute of repose states in no case may a construction defect claim be filed more than ten years after the later of any event triggering the statute of limitations for patent defects.

**BILL BASICS**

- Modifies the construction defect claims process by reducing the statute of repose for construction defect claims from 10 years to 7 years.
- Sets clear guidelines for what events trigger the statute of repose, as well as the statute of limitations for patent defect claims.
- Specifies a violation of the Florida Building Code gives rise to a civil cause of action only when such violation is a “material violation.”

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **89-8**  
SENATE **31-7**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 404**  
(HB 273)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**CLEMONS**

**PUBLIC RECORDS/PHOTOGRAPH  
OR VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING  
OF THE KILLING OF A MINOR/AUTOPSY  
REPORTS OF MINORS**



**The loved ones of children who have been killed should not have to live through such trauma ever again.**

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Protects the privacy of families aggrieved by tragedy and honors the two children who inspired this bill by citing portions of the bill as the “Rex and Brody Act.”
- Makes confidential and exempt from public disclosure the autopsy report of a minor whose death was related to an act of domestic violence as well as the photographs, video or audio recordings depicting the killing of a minor, with certain exceptions.

**CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- A photograph, video or, audio recording of an autopsy held by a medical examiner is confidential and exempt from public record requirements. However, current law does not exempt a medical examiner’s written autopsy report from public record requirements. As such, an autopsy report containing graphic details about the nature of the deceased’s injuries may be obtained and publicly shared without the surviving family members’ knowledge or consent.
- In May of 2021, law enforcement responded to a request for a wellness check ultimately finding two dead children (Rex and Brody) inside a flaming home. Later, news stations obtained a copy of the children’s autopsy reports. Several outlets published some of the report’s findings in August 2021 after the surviving mother had expressed to such outlets she did not want to know the nature of her children’s deaths and requested the news stations not to publish the information contained in them.

**BILL BASICS**

- Makes confidential and exempts from public record requirements the autopsy report of a minor whose death was related to an act of domestic violence as well as the photographs or video or audio recordings which depict the killing of a minor when held by an agency.
- Applies the exemption retroactively and creates an exception to the exemptions allowing for a surviving parent to access such records under certain conditions.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS** **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 431

REPRESENTATIVES  
**BAKER &  
DANIELS**

## SOLICITATION OF MINORS TO COMMIT LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS ACTS



**HB 431 protects minors from predators by closing a loophole which allows criminals to avoid consequences for their actions.**

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects 16 and 17-year-old Floridians by ensuring predators who solicit minors to commit a lewd or lascivious act are held accountable regardless of the medium used.

### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A 60-year-old man solicited a 17-year-old girl for sex by leaving a handwritten note on her car. However, the state was unable to charge him due to a gap in Florida law since an individual commits a third-degree felony only when he or she electronically solicits a 16 or 17-year-old to commit a lewd or lascivious act.
- While a person 24 years of age or older is prohibited from engaging in sexual activity or other lewd or lascivious conduct with a person who is 16 or 17 years of age, current law does not specifically criminalize the written solicitation of such minors to commit lewd or lascivious acts by a person who is 24 years of age or older.

### BILL BASICS

- Creates a third-degree felony prohibiting a person 24 years of age or older from soliciting a 16 or 17-year-old in writing, regardless of the medium used, to commit a lewd or lascivious act.
- Captures all forms of written solicitation, regardless of the method used to solicit such a minor and ranks the offense as a level 3 offense on the Criminal Punishment Code offense severity ranking chart.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **112-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# SB 450

(HB 555)

REPRESENTATIVE  
**JACQUES**

# DEATH PENALTY



The judicial system exists to deliver justice to victims and their families, but Florida's death penalty sentencing law is flawed and must be fixed. SB 450 will prevent future miscarriages of justice by reforming the sentencing requirements in death penalty cases.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes justice by removing the current requirement for a unanimous jury to recommend a death sentence.
- Prevents activist jurors from hijacking the process by requiring a jury to recommend a sentence of death if at least eight jurors agree.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In October 2016, the Florida Supreme Court (FSC) issued its opinion in *Hurst v. State*. The court determined in order for the trial court to impose a sentence of death, the jury's recommended sentence of death must be unanimous. However, in January 2020 the FSC partially receded from the *Hurst* decision in *State v. Poole* by finding that the unanimous jury recommendation requirement was wrongly decided.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Removes the current requirement for a unanimous jury to recommend a death sentence and instead, allows a jury to do so if at least 8 jurors agree.
- Retains the current requirement for a jury to unanimously find at least one aggravating factor was proven beyond a reasonable doubt in order to make a defendant eligible for a death sentence.
- Ensures transparency regardless of the jury's recommendation by requiring the court to include in its written order the reasons for its sentencing decision, even if it imposes a life sentence.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **80-30**  
SENATE **29-10**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 537

REPRESENTATIVE  
SILVERS

# CUSTODY AND SUPERVISION OF SPECIFIED OFFENDERS



Florida continues to prioritize the protection of children and victims of sexual offenses. The criminals who attempt these heinous acts should not be treated better than those who actually committed the same acts.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Clarifies existing prohibitions on gain-time to prevent criminals who attempt to commit sexual battery, among other crimes, from receiving gain-time.
- Protects the public from sexual offenders by ensuring criminals who attempt, solicit, or conspire to commit sexual battery and other sexual offenses are subject to similar restrictions as criminals who actually commit such crimes.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) can grant deductions in an inmate's sentence, which is known as gain-time. The types of gain-time include basic gain-time, incentive gain-time, meritorious gain-time, and educational achievement gain-time.
- In a recent court case, an inmate convicted of attempted sexual battery on a child under the age of 12 filed suit against FDOC alleging a conviction for a criminal attempt was not excluded from the award of gain-time by statute. The First District Court of Appeal ruled a conviction for an attempt was a separate and distinct offense. Thus, a person convicted of attempting to commit a crime — which would otherwise be ineligible for the award of incentive gain-time — is eligible for the award of gain-time.



## BILL BASICS

- Prohibits FDOC from granting:
  - Basic gain-time to a person who commits, or attempts, solicits, or conspires to commit sexual battery.
  - Incentive gain-time to a person who commits, or attempts, solicits, or conspires to commit specified sexual offenses.
- Ensures a person convicted of attempting, soliciting, or conspiring to commit an enumerated offense is subject to increased conditions of probation which would otherwise apply if he or she committed the underlying offense.
- Prohibits a reduction of the supervision term of a person who is on probation or community control after being convicted of a criminal offense which is a predicate offense for designation as a sexual predator.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 99-4  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 543

REPRESENTATIVES  
**BRANNAN &  
PAYNE**

# PUBLIC SAFETY



**HB 543 ensures law-abiding Floridians have the right to bear arms to protect themselves, their families, and their property without unnecessary government interference and expands public safety initiatives.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects the constitutional rights of all Floridians by allowing law-abiding citizens to concealed carry without a concealed weapon license (CWL).
- Increases public safety across Florida by ensuring communities have the resources necessary to respond to emergencies quickly and efficiently.
- Builds on recent initiatives to harden our schools and keep students safe.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, a person is prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon or firearm unless he or she has a valid CWL. Carrying a concealed weapon without a CWL is a first-degree misdemeanor and carrying a concealed firearm without a CWL is a third-degree felony.
- The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program authorizes qualified school personnel to serve as a guardian to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.



## BILL BASICS

- **NO GOVERNMENT PERMISSION SLIPS**
  - Ensures Floridians can exercise their Second Amendment rights without unnecessary government interference.
  - Supports law-abiding citizens who want to protect themselves and their families by eliminating the need for a CWL in the state of Florida.
  - Allows Floridians who are currently qualified to obtain and maintain a CWL to carry a concealed handgun or weapon without a license.
  - Continues to maintain CWL process for citizens still choosing to get a CWL.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# HB 543

REPRESENTATIVES  
**BRANNAN &  
PAYNE**

## PUBLIC SAFETY



### BILL BASICS CONTINUED...

#### • COMMUNITY-CENTERED SAFETY

- Prepares law enforcement to respond to active assailant threats by:
  - Directing all law enforcement agencies to develop an active assailant response policy by October 1, 2023.
  - Requiring each agency to review the model policy developed by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Commission when creating its own policy.
  - Ensuring all sworn personnel receive annual instruction on the policy.
- Strengthens community engagement in safety by:
  - Creating the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program to provide firearm detection canines to schools.
  - Enabling local communities to foster relationships and build partnerships between schools, local businesses, and law enforcement to raise funds for the program.

#### • SECURE SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

- Updates threat management standards by:
  - Requiring the Department of Education to implement new behavioral threat management protocols as well as a statewide threat assessment instrument and portal.

- Refocusing the responsibilities of school board and charter school threat assessment teams and renaming them threat management teams.
- Strengthens safety in all schools by:
  - Expanding the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to private schools by authorizing private schools to partner with law enforcement or security agencies to assign safe-school officers.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 76-32  
SENATE 27-13

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 574**  
(HB 73)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**MANEY**

# TERMINATION OF AGREEMENTS BY A SERVICEMEMBER



**SB 574 continues our mission of making Florida the most military-friendly state in the country by updating the financial protections enacted for active duty servicemembers.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Ensures our brave military members are not penalized for serving their country by protecting active duty servicemembers from losing their security deposits when they move from private housing to military housing.
- Clarifies conditions in which an active duty servicemember may break his or her rental lease.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Military Housing Privatization Initiative Act of 1996 (MHPI) addresses the deteriorating condition and quality of the military housing inventory. At the time MHPI became law, 180,000 housing units were identified as inadequate and in need of improvement or replacement. This housing backlog would have taken 30 years to resolve.
- To resolve this housing maintenance backlog more expeditiously, MHPI allows private developers to bid in an open competition to construct, operate, and maintain housing at military installations while the Department of Defense maintains ownership of the land of each property.



## BILL BASICS

- Defines “government quarters” as any military housing option available to a servicemember, including privatized military housing owned, operated, or managed by a private sector company.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 837

REPRESENTATIVES  
**GREGORY  
& FABRICIO**

# CIVIL REMEDIES



The legal system should ensure anyone who has suffered a loss is compensated quickly and fairly, but the hidden cost of lawsuit abuse is making life for Florida families and businesses more difficult. Florida's legal system needs to be balanced, allow good claims to move forward, and hold anyone engaging in real misconduct accountable.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Enacts meaningful and robust reforms with numerous changes to our civil justice system to reduce frivolous litigation, disincentivize abusive practices, and increase transparency.
- Ensures every Floridian will be able to seek proper and fair redress when wronged while safeguarding citizens and businesses from lawsuit abuse.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Runaway litigation abuse is a tax on every Floridian. Florida's litigation environment has impacted jobs and driven up the cost of goods and services. The bill seeks to make living in Florida more affordable and our businesses more competitive while ensuring proper and fair redress for civil wrongs.
- Generally, Florida follows a "pure" comparative negligence approach in which a jury determines each party's percentage of fault and the court apportions damages accordingly. The bill shifts Florida's damages apportionment standard to a "modified" comparative negligence approach (except for personal injury or wrongful death cases arising out of medical negligence pursuant to chapter 766) meaning any party who is more than 50 percent at fault for his or her own harm recovers no damages.



## BILL BASICS

- Significantly limits fee multiplier incentives for lawyers to collect higher fees when they sue.
- Limits the ability of attorneys to use vague and meritless allegations to assert bad faith on the part of insurance companies.
- Right-sizes verdicts by allowing a fairer assessment of fault in negligence cases other than medical malpractice cases.
- Provides juries with more detail and transparency with respect to calculating medical damages in ordinary tort cases.
- Reduces frivolous lawsuits or threats of litigation by significantly limiting "one-way attorney fees" which incentivize fraudulent or inflated claims.
- Streamlines the civil litigation process by reducing the statute of limitations from four years to two years in ordinary negligence cases.
- Requires a jury to consider the fault of an intentional wrongdoer in certain negligence cases and provides liability protections for certain property owners who implement security measures.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **80-31**  
SENATE **23-15**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1047

REPRESENTATIVES  
KILLEBREW  
& SMITH

# OFFENSES AGAINST CERTAIN ANIMALS



Florida's K-9 units and police horses are an essential part of our public safety, and these specially-trained animals deserve our protection.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects our police canines and horses by increasing criminal penalties for harming them or interfering with their duties.
- Ensures police canines and horses can effectively do their job in assisting law enforcement.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Offenses against police animals occur most often while the animals are on duty. One instance of intentional harm occurred several years ago when an attendee at the Gasparilla parade in Tampa punched a police horse being used to patrol the event.
- Police canines are frequently used in conjunction with high-intensity, criminal situations and are often deployed by their handlers to chase after fleeing offenders. In 2018, a member of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office canine unit, was shot and killed by an offender who was fleeing a scene after carjacking two women at a gas station minutes earlier.



## BILL BASICS

- Increases criminal penalties for:
  - Maliciously touching, striking, or causing bodily harm to a police, fire, or search and rescue (SAR) canine, or police horse from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony and increases the offense severity to level 2.
  - Maliciously harassing, teasing, interfering with, or attempting to interfere with a police, fire, or SAR canine, or police horse while the animal is performing its duties from a second-degree misdemeanor to a first-degree misdemeanor.
- Creates a new crime to prohibit resisting, obstructing, or opposing any police canine or police horse, working at the direction of or in tandem with an officer or legally authorized person, by offering or doing violence to the police canine or police horse (third-degree felony and level 2 offense severity).

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 116-0  
SENATE 39-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1105

REPRESENTATIVE  
TEMPLE

# RAPID DNA GRANT PROGRAM



DNA has been a vital tool in law enforcement and criminal justice. HB 1105 establishes the framework by which the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) can provide resources to law enforcement to expand rapid DNA processing statewide.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Strengthens public safety throughout the state by establishing the Rapid DNA Grant Program to provide direct funding to law enforcement agencies.
- Improves efforts to identify suspects and criminals through the statewide DNA database by providing direct grants to county jails and sheriffs' offices to procure Rapid DNA machines and necessary supplies.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A statewide DNA database was established in 1989 to assist law enforcement agencies in the identification and location of missing and unidentified persons, and detection of individuals in criminal investigations.
- According to the Florida Sheriffs Association, DNA testing of an arrestee can take weeks or months to process due to the nature of the testing and the current backlog of submissions. But with Rapid DNA being a fully-automated process of generating a DNA profile from a person's buccal swab results can be received in less than two hours, without the need for human intervention or review.

## BILL BASICS

- Creates the Rapid DNA Grant Program within FDLE to annually award grants to county jails or sheriffs' offices to procure Rapid DNA machines and other necessary supplies to support the statewide DNA database.
- Authorizes FDLE to establish criteria and set specific time periods for the acceptance of applications and for the selection process for awarding grant funds.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **111-0**  
SENATE **37-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR



# HB 1207

REPRESENTATIVE  
SHOAF

# OPERATION NEW HOPE



**Our criminal justice system should provide those who serve their debt to society a pathway back to life as a productive citizen.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Expands reentry services for inmates prior to, during, and after release from incarceration — especially focused on dealing with substance abuse and mental health.
- Aims to reduce recidivism rates by authorizing the Florida Department of Corrections to contract with Operation New Hope (ONH) to provide such services.
- Makes Operation New Hope eligible to receive recurring state funds.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- ONH is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help reformed criminals become productive members of society, providing reentry services such as case management, career development, life skills training, job skills training, family reunification, financial assistance, and job placement assistance.
- The Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) currently contracts with ONH to provide reentry services through the following three programs: Ready4Release, Ready4Work, and Ready4Success.
- These programs provide pre-release services to 30 facilities across the State of Florida and have assisted more than 9,000 individuals since 1999.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Authorizes FDOC to contract with ONH to provide reentry services including counseling, job placement, money management assistance, and programs addressing substance abuse, mental health, and co-occurring conditions.
- Makes ONH eligible to receive recurring state funding in future years.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1297

REPRESENTATIVE  
BAKER

# CAPITAL SEXUAL BATTERY



**HB 1297 ensures justice for victims of one of the most heinous and vile acts imaginable: sexual battery on a young child — a crime so monstrous and horrific that there can be no tolerance for the perpetrators in civilized society.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects Florida's most vulnerable from child predators by creating the legal framework to challenge decades of legal precedent and finally implement the death penalty for capital sexual battery.
- Promotes justice by requiring a jury to recommend a sentence of death if at least 8 jurors agree to do so.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The bill requires a court to impose a death sentence notwithstanding existing case law which holds such a sentence unconstitutional under the Florida Constitution and the United States Constitution.
- However, in any case for which the Florida Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court reviews a death sentence imposed for a capital sexual battery offense, and in making such a review reconsiders the holdings in *Buford v. State* and *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, and determines a sentence of death remains unconstitutional, the court having jurisdiction over the person previously sentenced to death must resentence the person to life imprisonment.
- The bill authorizes the state to appeal a sentence of life imprisonment resulting from a court's failure to comply with the sentencing procedures in law.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Allows a death sentence to be imposed for capital sexual battery if at least 8 jurors determine a defendant should be sentenced to death.
- Requires a jury to unanimously determine the state has proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, the existence of at least two aggravating factors for a defendant to be eligible for the death penalty.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 95-14  
SENATE 34-5

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1301

REPRESENTATIVE  
PERSONS-  
MULICKA

# PARENTING AND TIME-SHARING OF MINOR CHILDREN



**HB 1301 ensures parents walk into court on equal footing while providing a custody process to decide the best interests of their child.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects children with divorced or separated parents by creating a rebuttable presumption specifying equal time sharing is in the best interest of the child.
- Recognizes mothers and fathers share equally important but different roles in the upbringing of children.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Under current law, a court may only modify a parenting plan and timesharing schedule after a substantial, material, and unanticipated change in circumstances has been proven. As such, in order to modify timesharing of a child, the court must find:
  - Circumstances have substantially and materially changed since the original custody determination;
  - The change was not reasonably contemplated by the parties; and
  - The child's best interests justify modifying the existing timesharing schedule.



## BILL BASICS

- Creates a rebuttable presumption specifying equal timesharing is in the best interest of the child.
- Provides a process to rebut the presumption through proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, equal timesharing is not in the best interests of the child.
- Removes the requirement for modifying a parenting plan and the alleged substantial and material change in circumstances which warrants modification must also be unanticipated.
- Clarifies a parent's relocation to be closer to his or her child may be considered a substantial and material change in circumstances for the purpose of modifying the time-sharing schedule and parenting plan.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 105-7  
SENATE 34-3

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 1332**  
(HB 1039)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**STARK**

# MISSING PERSONS



Florida will never stop trying to bring our missing persons home. This bill ensures we are using all of our available resources to find and protect missing persons.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Focuses statewide efforts and expands communication between law enforcement agencies throughout the nation by improving reporting of missing persons cases.
- Ensures timely response and reporting of credible reports of missing persons by requiring agencies to transmit reports to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) within two hours.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- NamUs acts as a nationwide information clearinghouse, allowing for the search and entry of missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases in the U.S. and provides free-of-charge forensic services, investigative support, and training and outreach.
- Currently, Florida law enforcement enters and maintains missing persons reports in the Florida Crime Information Center, the Missing Endangered Persons Clearinghouse, and the National Crime Information Center.
- Florida law enforcement agencies are not currently required to enter or maintain records of missing persons in the NamUs database.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Requires a law enforcement agency receiving a report of a missing child from a parent or guardian, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a community-based care provider, or a sheriff's office providing investigative services for DCF, or receiving a credible report of a missing adult to transmit the report to NamUs within two hours.
- Directs law enforcement agencies to adopt standards regarding maintaining and clearing data in NamUs.
- Prohibits the removal of a missing child or missing adult entry on the NamUs database based solely on the age of the missing person.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **117-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1359

REPRESENTATIVE  
ABBOTT

## OFFENSES INVOLVING FENTANYL OR FENTANYL ANALOGS



Children can be attracted to substances which catch their attention or look familiar, which makes the recent trend of rainbow fentanyl — brightly colored fentanyl-laced products — particularly dangerous for our youth.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Ensures drug traffickers and dealers who put our most vulnerable at risk are punished and held accountable for their actions.
- Keeps our communities and children safer by imposing harsher penalties on those trafficking fentanyl to minors.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid analgesic and is approximately 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.
- Recently, law enforcement agencies have reported increased seizures of fentanyl-laced products that are brightly colored and often resemble candy, popularly known as rainbow fentanyl. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports drug cartels are manufacturing rainbow fentanyl in an effort to target children and young adults.
- In a three-month period from August 2022 to October 2022, the DEA and its law enforcement partners seized various types of rainbow fentanyl in 26 states.



### BILL BASICS

- Creates a first-degree felony offense with a mandatory minimum sentence of three years for an individual who sells, manufactures, or delivers, or possesses with the intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver fentanyl or fentanyl derivatives which resemble products or use packaging with certain attributes, such as resembling candy, cereal, or a consumer brand product.
- Requires a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years (and up to life in prison) and a \$1 million fine if an adult is convicted of selling or delivering to a minor at least four grams of fentanyl or a fentanyl analog if it has certain attributes outlined in the newly created offense mentioned above.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 115-0  
SENATE 37-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 1416

(HB 1409)

REPRESENTATIVES  
TEMPLE &  
ANDRADE

# DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE



**SB 1416 seeks to make the divorce process smoother and improve parity by encouraging finality in divorces instead of requiring divorced parties to be bound to an indefinite financial relationship.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Encourages divorcees to become self-sufficient by eliminating permanent (lifetime) alimony.
- Safeguards existing alimony agreements by ensuring the bill does not automatically apply retroactively and negatively affect any existing agreements.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Types of alimony available before the bill became law:
  - Temporary: assists a spouse during the pending dissolution of marriage litigation.
  - Bridge-the-gap: temporarily assists a spouse to ensure a proper transition to single life.
  - Rehabilitative: provides alimony to execute and sustain a rehabilitative plan which typically includes the costs of obtaining the skills or education necessary to become financially independent.
  - Durational: a term-restricted award not to exceed the length of marriage.
  - Permanent: an alimony award which continues in perpetuity, unless later modified or terminated.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Prohibits the award of permanent alimony — only allowing courts to award temporary, bridge-the-gap, rehabilitative, or durational alimony.
- Authorizes the court to consider the adultery of either spouse, and any resulting economic impact which resulted from the adultery when determining the amount of alimony.
- Clarifies the process for modifying a parenting plan by removing the requirement for the change in circumstances to be unanticipated and clarifies a parent's relocation to be closer to his or her child may qualify as a change in circumstances for modification purposes.
- Changes the classification of short term, moderate-term, and long-term marriages for the purposes of determining alimony:
  - Short-term — from less than 7 years to less than 10 years.
  - Moderate-term — from 7-17 years to at least 10 years but less than 20 years.
  - Long-term — from 17 or more years to 20 or more years.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **102-12**  
SENATE **34-6**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1417

REPRESENTATIVES  
ESPOSITO  
& McCLURE

# RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES



Recently, we have seen attempts by local governments to interfere in the state regulation of residential rentals, enacting burdensome policies which will only end up decreasing the supply of housing and increasing costs.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes the principles of capitalism and ensures government doesn't get in the way of free-market solutions to affordable housing.
- Prevents arduous, inflationary local government regulation by expressly preempting to the state the regulation of residential tenancies.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The bill ensures uniform application of state law by superseding local government regulation on matters such as tenant screening policies, security deposits, rental applications and fees, terms and conditions of agreements, tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities, landlord fees, and notice requirements.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Expressly preempts to the state the regulation of residential tenancies, the landlord-tenant relationship, and all other matters covered under the Florida Residential Landlord and Tenant Act.
- Standardizes the termination notice period to not less than 30 days for a month-to-month tenancy and a tenancy with a specific duration.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 81-33  
SENATE 29-8

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



Title fraud is becoming more prevalent, as fraudsters seek to illegally fake or record a real estate title and use it for their own gain without the knowledge of the owner. HB 1419 safeguards Floridians' most important investment — their homes.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Takes aim at fraudulent real property transfers and provides efficient recourse for those who have fallen victim to such offenses.
- Helps protect the title of rightful homeowners by combating forged deeds.
- Seeks to find innovative solutions by establishing the Title Fraud Prevention Through Identity Verification Pilot Program in Lee County.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- In recent years, there has been an increase in title fraud, including fraudulent real property attempted conveyances in which a fraudster executes and records a deed purporting to convey title to or an interest in real property to himself or herself or a third party without the property owner's knowledge or consent.
- Such fraud can have devastating impacts on victims' financial security, often requiring them to pay legal fees to rectify their title issues.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Implements additional safeguards when recording deeds and directs clerks of court to create a free recording notification service to provide registered property owners with early notice to any filed land records.
- Allows victims of title fraud access to summary court procedures, which will move the case quickly through the court system and expeditiously restore title to the rightful owner.
- Creates the Title Fraud Prevention Through Identity Verification Pilot Program, in which the Lee County clerk may require the production of a government-issued photographic identification card in connection with the filing of specified instruments.



# HB 1465

REPRESENTATIVES  
**GARRISON  
& SNYDER**

# FIREARM AND DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE OFFENSES



**Criminal organizations and career criminals are responsible for the vast majority of gun crimes. HB 1465 protects our communities from gun violence by imposing stiffer penalties for offenders.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Keeps our communities safer through harsher punishments for crimes involving firearms.
- Improves public safety by ensuring a juvenile detained for using a firearm is held in secure detention while awaiting his or her detention hearing.
- Punishes repeat offenders by increasing penalties for repeated firearm thefts.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The “10-20-Life” law sets mandatory minimum sentences for a person who possessed or discharged a firearm or destructive device during the commission of a specified offense, such as murder, sexual battery, or robbery as follows: for possession during the crime, 10 years; for discharge, 20 years; or for discharge resulting in death or great bodily harm, 25 years to life.



## BILL BASICS

- Amends “10-20-Life” to add the offense of human trafficking to the enumerated offenses which make a person eligible for specified mandatory minimum sentences if a person actually possessed or discharged a firearm, destructive device, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun while committing the offense of human trafficking.
- Requires a juvenile charged with any offense involving the possession or use of a firearm to be held in secure detention until his or her detention hearing, which must occur within 24 hours, and authorizes a court to hold such a juvenile in secure detention for more than 21 days under certain conditions.
- Increases the ranking for grand theft of a firearm from a Level 4 offense to a Level 6 offense on the offense severity ranking chart and creates a new offense, punishable as a second-degree felony, for a second or subsequent conviction for grand theft of a firearm (Level 7 offense).

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **96-5**  
SENATE **39-1**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

**SB 1616**  
(HB 1495)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**HOLCOMB**

**PUBLIC RECORDS/  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
PROTECTIVE SERVICES**



**SB 1616 helps protect the lives of elected officials and their families by creating a public records exemption for information related to the security or transportation services provided to them by law enforcement.**

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Stops bad actors from obtaining records related to the protection of elected officials, which potentially puts their lives in danger.
- Exempts certain information from public records requirements.

**CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) provides security and transportation services for the Governor and his or her immediate family, visiting Governors and their families, Cabinet officials, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President.
- The public record exemption is a public necessity because the disclosure of records such as plans, assessments, and travel records of the protectee and the protective detail could reveal the means and methods used in providing security or transportation services and could impair the ability of FDLE or other law enforcement agencies to provide such services.

**BILL BASICS**

- Creates a public records exemption for records held by a law enforcement agency relating to the security or transportation services provided to certain officials.
- Provides a sunset provision and will repeal on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **84-31**  
SENATE **28-12**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 1627

REPRESENTATIVE  
GARRISON

# PRETRIAL RELEASE AND DETENTION



In recent years, the Legislature has taken bold and decisive steps to ensure the safety of Floridians and strengthen the rule of law. HB 1627 continues these efforts.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Sets uniform standards for pretrial detention in our courts to keep communities safer throughout the state.
- Empowers judges to make important decisions regarding public safety and the integrity of the judicial process.

## BILL BASICS

- Requires the Florida Supreme Court to establish a uniform minimum statewide bond schedule for misdemeanor and third-degree felonies not classified as dangerous crimes.
- Prohibits a person from being released prior to first appearance if such person has been arrested for committing specified crimes or meets other specified criteria.
- Authorizes the court to revoke pretrial release and order pretrial detention if a defendant violates a material term or condition of release.
- Adds the crimes of DUI manslaughter, BUI manslaughter, trafficking in fentanyl, extortion, and written threats to kill to the statutory list of dangerous crimes which may subject a defendant to pretrial detention.
- Prohibits the court from granting nonmonetary pretrial release at first appearance if a defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime and the court determines there is probable cause to believe the defendant committed the offense.
- Requires a court to order pretrial detention of a defendant who is arrested for a capital felony, life felony, or first-degree felony if the court finds a substantial probability the defendant committed the offense and no conditions of release or bail will reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm, ensure the presence of the defendant at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, the chief judge of a judicial circuit may issue an administrative order promulgating a “bond schedule” to provide standard bail amounts for specified crimes. However, this has led to a lack of consistency in bond schedules throughout Florida’s 20 circuits. When it comes to public safety, it is important to have consistent standards across the state in order to protect Floridians no matter where they live.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 83-19  
SENATE 36-3

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 7064

(HB 7045)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**OVERDORF  
& YARKOSKY**

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING



**Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. We will continue to aggressively pursue human traffickers and ensure victims can recover damages for harm committed against them.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Empowers victims to hold human traffickers accountable by allowing victims of human trafficking to recover damages from adult theaters.
- Promotes public safety by enacting common-sense policies to further Florida's anti-human trafficking initiatives.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- An "adult theater" is a building used for presenting performances distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matter relating to sexual activities for observation by patrons, and which restricts admission only to adults, or any business featuring a person who engages in specific sexual activities for observation by a patron, and which restricts admission to only adults.
- Police and sheriff departments, county and state attorneys' offices, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, state agencies holding data related to human trafficking, and all other nongovernmental organizations which serve human trafficking victims through state or federal funding are required to report information to the Statewide Data Repository for Anonymous Human Trafficking Data.



## BILL BASICS

- Allows victims to recover damages by creating a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking against adult theaters.
- Combats human trafficking, especially involving children, by increasing criminal penalties for adult theaters failing to comply with proof of age and identity verification requirements.
- Reduces reoffense risk by requiring offenders convicted of soliciting another person to commit prostitution to attend and pay for an anti-human trafficking and anti-commercial sex educational program.
- Creates the Statewide Data Repository for Anonymous Human Trafficking Data within the University of South Florida to:
  - Collect and analyze human trafficking data and evaluate the success of state-funded anti-human trafficking initiatives.
  - Inform statewide efforts to apprehend and prosecute human traffickers and provide intervention services.
- Requires the proceeds from seized and forfeited property to be allocated to pay any order of restitution of a human trafficking victim in the criminal case for which the owner was convicted.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# HB 1543

REPRESENTATIVES  
PAYNE  
& SIROIS

## MINIMUM AGE FOR FIREARM PURCHASE OR TRANSFER



HB 1543 would have restored the right to purchase a long gun to law-abiding 18-to-20-year-old Floridians. The bill would have brought Florida in line with the 43 other states which allow a person 18 and over to purchase a long gun.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have protected the constitutional rights of all Floridians by restoring the right to purchase long guns to adults 18 and over.
- Would have ensured 18-to-20-year-olds are not dependent on others to be able to exercise their Second Amendment rights.
- Reaffirms the Florida House's commitment to protecting constitutional rights.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Any law-abiding Floridian who is at least 18 years old can own, possess, and use a long gun. However, under current law, 18- to 20-year-olds cannot purchase firearms but can be gifted them.
- Both state and Federal law regulate the purchase of firearms, which can either be made through a federal firearms licensee (FFL) or through a private sale.



### BILL BASICS

- Would have reduced the minimum age requirement to purchase a firearm from 21 to 18, applying to purchases from either an FFL or private seller.
- Would have reduced from 21 to 18 the minimum age of a purchaser to which an FFL may make or facilitate a sale or transfer of a firearm.

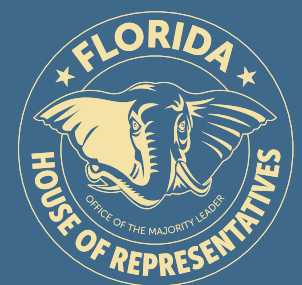
**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 69-36

**STATUS**  PASSED  
HOUSE ONLY

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

STATE AFFAIRS



# SB 102

(HB 627)

REPRESENTATIVES

**BUSATTA CABRERA  
& LOPEZ, V.**

# HOUSING



**SB 102 is a transformational, market-driven combination of policies to provide attainable housing options for Floridians at every income level and stage of life.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes market-driven solutions using incentives to increase investment in affordable housing and preempts rent control under any circumstances.
- Balances a focus on increasing the number of workforce rental units available and expanding opportunities for home ownership.
- Directs financial assistance to first-time homebuyers by expanding and making permanent the Hometown Hero Program.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, the Hometown Hero Program is a homeownership assistance program which provides access to zero-interest rate loans to reduce the amount of down payment and closing costs for homebuyers employed in certain necessary professions such as law enforcement officers, educators, healthcare professionals, active duty military, and veterans.
- The State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships which produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing.
- The State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) provides low-interest loans on a competitive basis to multifamily affordable housing developers which often serve to bridge the gap between the development's primary financing and the total cost of the development.



## BILL BASICS

- Expands the Hometown Hero Program to all residents employed fulltime by a Florida-based employer whose family income does not exceed 150% of the state or local area median income, whichever is greater.
- Preempts certain local government regulations, including rent control, to incentivize investment in the development of affordable housing.
- Appropriates statewide affordable housing funding:
  - \$252 million to SHIP.
  - \$259 million to SAIL (including \$150 million in new recurring funds).
  - \$100 million to the Florida Hometown Hero Program.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **103-6**  
SENATE **40-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# SB 170

(HB 1515)

REPRESENTATIVE  
BRACKETT

# LOCAL ORDINANCES



Local businesses are the backbone of our communities and economy.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Empowers citizens and businesses by giving them the tools to challenge burdensome local ordinances which go beyond a local government's authority.
- Encourages local governments to consider the full effects of proposed ordinances by requiring the release of a "business impact estimate" before adoption.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A business impact estimate must include a summary of the proposed ordinance, including:
  - A statement of the public purpose it serves;
  - An estimate of compliance costs and the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on businesses;
  - A good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the ordinance;
  - Any additional information that the county or municipality determines may be useful.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Protects Florida businesses from burdensome local government regulation by allowing a court to award attorney fees, costs, and damages for successfully challenging an arbitrary or unreasonable local ordinance.
- Prohibits a county or municipality from enforcing an ordinance subject to such challenge.
- Requires local governments to consider the economic impact of proposed ordinances on local businesses by preparing a "business impact estimate" before adopting certain local ordinances.
- Clarifies public notice requirements to allow properly noticed consideration of a proposed ordinance to continue to a subsequent meeting under certain circumstances without further publication, mailing, or posted notice.
- Caps the award of reasonable attorney fees or costs and damages at \$50,000.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 82-33  
SENATE 28-12

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# SB 242

(HB 955)

REPRESENTATIVE  
**PERSONS-  
MULICKA**

# FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY



**Organizations receiving state funding need to be accountable to taxpayers, and we must ensure funds dedicated for contracted services are responsibly spent on the services provided.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects taxpayer dollars by putting in place more safeguards for government contracts with nonprofits.
- Increases transparency by providing information about state contracts to the public in the state's dedicated tracking system.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Department of Financial Services maintains the Florida Accountability Contract Tracking System (FACTS). FACTS is designed to increase transparency and accountability in the procurement process and to ensure state entities are complying with applicable laws and regulations.
- State entities must post certain information about executed contracts on FACTS, such as the names of the contracting entities, contract price, performance measurements, and other terms and conditions.



## BILL BASICS

- Directs any contract for services with a nonprofit organization to require the contractor to provide documentation indicating the amount of state funds to be used to compensate board members or executives of the nonprofit.
- Ensures any information showing how state funds will be used for remuneration by the contractor is made available to the public on FACTS and posted on the contractor's website if the contractor maintains a website.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **113-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

**SB 256**  
(HB 1445)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**BLACK**

**EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS  
REPRESENTING PUBLIC  
EMPLOYEES**



Florida is a right-to-work state, and we must balance and respect the constitutional rights to work and collectively bargain. SB 256 ensures the views of the majority of public employees are being accurately reflected.

**MAJOR MESSAGES**

- Protects public employees' paychecks and ensures such employees consent to be part of a union.
- Stops the public employer from becoming a dues collector for public sector unions.
- Empowers public employees by ensuring they are informed of their constitutional right-to-work.

**CRUCIAL CONTEXT**

- Florida is a right-to-work state meaning the right of an individual to work cannot be denied or abridged based on membership or non-membership in any employee organization.
- In order to become a certified bargaining agent, an employee organization must register with and be certified by the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC). A registration granted to an employee organization is valid for one year and must be renewed annually. A certified bargaining agent may have its dues and uniform assessments deducted from the salaries of employees who authorize such a deduction.

**BILL BASICS**

- Protects public employees' paychecks and ensures such employees consent to be part of a union by requiring them to sign and date a membership authorization form, which identifies the five highest compensated union officers, when they join a union.
- Prohibits union dues and special assessments from being deducted by the employer.
- Gives employees a choice to opt out of a union at any time through a written request.
- Requires public employee unions to petition PERC for recertification if its dues-paying membership falls below 60% in order to ensure the union continues to speak for a majority of the employees.
- Exempts employee organizations representing law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and firefighters from the above changes.
- Promotes accountability by requiring all public employee unions to provide annual audited financial statements to members and with their registration renewal applications and prohibiting such unions from attempting to influence a public official through gift or other compensation.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 72-44  
SENATE 23-17

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 258

(HB 563)

REPRESENTATIVE  
AMESTY

## PROHIBITED APPLICATIONS ON GOVERNMENT-ISSUED DEVICES



We cannot risk the possibility of hostile foreign espionage through the use of phone applications and technologies on government-issued phones and devices.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Protects government-issued devices from hostile foreign governments by banning certain applications, like TikTok, on such devices.
- Further protects information technology infrastructure by requiring public employers to restrict access to any prohibited application on a government-issued device.



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Certain technology companies headquartered or incorporated in foreign countries of concern, such as TikTok and WeChat, are under increasing scrutiny by the U.S. government as a potential privacy and security risk to U.S. citizens. This is because technology companies that do business in foreign countries of concern, like China or Russia, are subject to those countries' laws and are typically required to turn over user data, intellectual property, and proprietary business information when requested by the foreign government.



### BILL BASICS

- Requires the Department of Management Services to create a list of prohibited applications which pose a security risk or are owned by a foreign principal with a history of endangering cybersecurity.
- Prohibits such applications from being downloaded on government-issued devices, with certain exceptions.
- Requires public employers to block prohibited applications from accessing any of their networks, restrict access to any prohibited applications on a government-issued device, and retain the ability to remotely wipe and uninstall prohibited applications from a compromised government-issued device.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **115-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 535

REPRESENTATIVE  
BOTANA

## FUNERAL SERVICE BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS



Our law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line to protect our communities, sometimes paying the ultimate price. HB 535, or the “Respecting Their Sacrifices Act,” honors those law enforcement officials who made the ultimate sacrifice.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Honors our fallen law enforcement heroes by ensuring their fellow officers are granted the time and ability to attend funeral services.
- Honors law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers who lost their lives in the line of duty by increasing funding for funeral and burial services.

### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A full-time state law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer is entitled to certain death benefits when killed in the line of duty. In addition, current law requires \$1,000 to be paid towards the funeral or burial expenses of such officer under certain circumstances.
- Current law authorizes state law enforcement agencies to permit their personnel using state vehicles to make incidental stops for personal errands.

### BILL BASICS

- Allows the head of a law enforcement agency to grant up to 8 hours of administrative leave to a law enforcement officer in order for the officer to attend a funeral service within Florida of another law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty and authorize travel expenses to attend such funeral service.
- Permits a state law enforcement officer to use his or her state vehicle to attend such funeral service if authorized by the agency head.
- Increases the amount contributable to funeral or burial expenses of a state law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer who is killed in the line of duty from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **110-0**  
SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# HB 621

REPRESENTATIVES  
**BARNABY  
& MANEY**

## DEATH BENEFITS FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS



Florida continues to be a leader supporting our brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces on and off the battlefield. HB 621 honors those who make the ultimate sacrifice to ensure their loved ones are provided with the appropriate death benefits.

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Honors our fallen soldiers and their families by consolidating the death benefit for active duty servicemembers to provide a uniform death benefit of \$75,000.
- Modernizes the process to establish a beneficiary through the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).



### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Florida Constitution requires the payment of death benefits to the survivors of active duty servicemembers of the United States Armed Forces.
- Servicemembers in the U.S. Armed Forces who are killed or receive a bodily injury that results in the loss of their life while on active duty and engaged in the performance of their official duties are eligible for a death benefit of \$75,000. Servicemembers who are killed while on active duty, but not in the context of their official duties, are eligible for a death benefit of \$25,000.



### BILL BASICS

- Consolidates the death benefit for active duty servicemembers to provide a uniform death benefit of \$75,000.
- Revises the process for designating a beneficiary by allowing DMA to establish a process for designation.
- Clarifies the mechanism by which the death benefit is paid by requiring DMA to request the Chief Financial Officer to draw a warrant from the General Revenue Fund for payment of the benefit.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **108-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# SB 774

(HB 37)

REPRESENTATIVE  
ROACH

# ETHICS REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS



**Government officials should be held to the highest standard because Floridians deserve public officials who exercise their duties and responsibilities ethically.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Expands transparency in local government by requiring local elected officials to file the same financial disclosure as state elected officials.
- Increases the efficiency of filing ethics disclosures and conducting ethics investigations.
- Promotes accountability by increasing the maximum fine for an ethics violation.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Current law requires all elected constitutional officers, statewide elected officials, or candidates for those positions to file a Form 6 to show a complete listing and valuation of their assets and liabilities.
- Most elected city officials only have to file a Form 1, which requires much less detail on specific assets and liabilities.
- A Form 6 allows citizens to more easily identify potential conflicts of interest.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Requires local elected officials and members of the Commission on Ethics to annually file a full public financial disclosure (Form 6) in place of the less detailed Form 1.
- Improves implementation of the new, statewide electronic financial disclosure filing system and authorizes the Commission on Ethics to dismiss certain complaints and investigations that do not serve the public's interest.
- Increases the maximum fine for a violation of the Code of Ethics from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 113-2  
SENATE 35-5

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# SB 942

(HB 941)

REPRESENTATIVE  
**BUSATTA  
CABRERA**

# AUTHORIZATION OF RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING DOGS



**Our pets are part of the family. SB 942 combats arbitrary pet restrictions in public housing to expand opportunities for more families.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Prohibits arbitrary restrictions on dog breeds in public housing based on size, weight, or breed.
- Promotes access to affordable housing by ensuring prospective renters do not lose out on housing opportunities because of their pets.
- Refocuses the intention of pet restrictions by allowing policies restricting dogs with a history of dangerous behavior.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Public housing authorities (PHAs) are created at municipal, county, and regional levels to transact business and exercise statutory powers once the local governing body declares by resolution that there is a need for a housing authority to function in its jurisdiction. PHAs must submit annual plans to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, which includes a statement of their policies and rules regarding ownership of pets in public housing.
- Currently, some PHAs include provisions in their policies prohibiting pets based on breed, behavior, or training of the pet. However, some regulations based on breed do not depend on a finding that the pet is vicious or dangerous. Additionally, the definition of “dangerous dog” under Florida law is not uniformly applied in all PHA policies.



## BILL BASICS

- Expands the current prohibition on local governments adopting breed-specific regulations to include a prohibition on regulations based on size or weight of the dog.
- Provides that these same restrictions apply to PHAs and removes the current exception for breed-specific ordinances adopted by local governments before October 1, 1990.
- Allows PHAs to adopt policies imposing restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dogs deemed dangerous and develop procedures or criteria to aid in the implementation of these policies.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **39-1**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# SM 1382

(HM 1319)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**GREGORY  
& SIROIS**

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



The United States has the most powerful military in the world. SM 1382 makes clear the Florida Legislature's position on merit-based structure in the United States Military.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Sends a clear message to the federal government urging Congress to return our military to a merit-based system.
- Denounces recent social practices within the military including mandatory vaccinations and policies encouraging the use of person-centered and gender-neutral language.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A memorial is an official legislative document addressed to the United States Congress, the President of the United States, or some other governmental entity that expresses the will of the Legislature on a matter within the jurisdiction of the recipient.
- In 2021, President Biden removed earlier presidential restrictions on diversity and inclusion-related training for uniformed personnel through executive order, requiring agency heads in establishing diversity and inclusion training to enable Federal employees, managers, and leaders to have knowledge of systemic and institutional racism and bias against underserved communities, promote inclusive workplaces, and have increased understanding of implicit and unconscious bias.



## BILL BASICS

- Urges the United States Congress to prohibit social practices, such as mandatory vaccinations and policies encouraging the use of person-centered and gender-neutral language, and return to a merit-based system for military force development and composition.
- Requires the Secretary of State to dispatch copies to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 84-24  
SENATE 34-5

**STATUS**  FILED WITH  
SECRETARY  
OF STATE



**SB 1604**  
(HB 439)  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**McCLAIN**

# LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS



**As the state continues to grow, we must promote economic development and restrict arbitrary red tape.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes more effective and efficient growth management by requiring a longer planning period for local governments when developing their local comprehensive plans.
- Combats burdensome development regulations at the local level by ensuring proper planning and evaluation of comprehensive plans and prohibiting arbitrary regulations.
- Precludes an independent special district from complying with the terms of a development agreement adopted within three months preceding a law changing the selection method of the members of the governing body.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Community Planning Act provides counties and municipalities with the power to plan for future development by adopting comprehensive plans. All development, both public and private, and all development orders approved by local governments must be consistent with the local government's comprehensive plan.
- A "special district" is a unit of local government created for a special purpose, as opposed to a general purpose, with jurisdiction to operate within a limited geographic boundary. Special districts are created by general law, special act, local ordinance, or rule of the Governor and Cabinet. A special district has only those powers expressly provided by, or reasonably implied from, the authority provided in the district's charter.



## BILL BASICS

- Increases both required planning periods for local comprehensive planning requirements:
  - The first from a 5- to a 10-year period.
  - The second from a 10- to a 20-year period
- Penalizes local governments that fail to update their comprehensive plans in accordance with the 7-year evaluation and appraisal process by preventing them from initiating or adopting any publicly-initiated plan amendments.
- Prohibits local governments from requiring specified building design elements for residential dwellings in planned unit developments and master planned communities approved on or after July 1, 2023, and in communities with a design review board or architectural review board created on or after January 1, 2020.
- Precludes an independent special district from complying with the terms of a development agreement executed within 3 months preceding a law modifying the manner of selecting members of the governing body of the special district, and requires the new governing body to vote on whether to seek readoption of such development agreement within 4 months of taking office.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 75-34  
SENATE 27-13

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# SB 7050

(HB 7067)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**McCLURE &  
SALZMAN**

# ELECTIONS



Florida runs the best elections in the country. The Legislature is committed to maintaining our preeminence in this area by continually taking proactive measures to strengthen election integrity and administration — SB 7050 builds on this commitment.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Improves election administration and provides more information to voters.
- Expands candidate transparency by requiring disclosure of fines for ethics or campaign finance violations.
- Strengthens vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot integrity and third-party voter registration organization (3PVRO) accountability.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- A 3PVRO is any person, entity, or organization soliciting or collecting voter registration applications, but does not include:
  - A person who seeks only to register to vote or collect a voter registration application from that person's spouse, child, or parent; or
  - A person engaged in registering to vote or collecting voter registration applications as an employee or agent of the Division of Elections, the Department of Highway Safety Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), a supervisor of elections (SOE), or a voter registration agency.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

### ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION TO VOTERS

- Ensures accurate, up-to-date voter rolls by:
  - Requiring more communication about voter eligibility and address verification between SOEs, clerks of court, and DHSMV.
  - Allowing SOEs to send out address confirmation final notices to voters who have not voted in the previous two general elections.
- Provides more information to voters — requiring voter information cards to include:
  - A link on the SOE's website providing the most current polling place locations.
  - A statement that a voter information card

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# SB 7050

(HB 7067)

REPRESENTATIVES

**McCLURE &  
SALZMAN**

# ELECTIONS



## BILL BASICS CONTINUED...

is not proof of eligibility to vote and the voter can confirm eligibility to vote with the Department of State.

- Allows SOEs to report voting and registration fraud to the Office of Election Crimes and Security and streamlines post-election reporting and review.

### CAMPAIGN TRANSPARENCY

- Requires candidates to disclose certain outstanding fines for ethics or campaign finance violations at the time of qualifying.
- Provides a method for candidates to be able to have their nicknames appear on the ballot and clarifies that a person seeking the Office of President or Vice President is not subject to the resign-to-run law.
- Prohibits a person from representing a political “voter guide” as an official publication of a party without written permission from the party and requires a bold disclaimer for voter guides to prevent misrepresentation.

### VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT INTEGRITY

- Ensures voters have adequate time to vote by moving up the deadlines for voters to request, and for SOEs to mail, VBM ballots.

- Prohibits two or more VBM ballots returned in the same envelope from being counted.
- Requires signature matching training for all election officials who verify signatures.
- Requires the Department of State to adopt a uniform statewide application for a written request for a VBM ballot.

### THIRD-PARTY VOTER REGISTRATION ORGANIZATION ACCOUNTABILITY

- Protects voters from the mishandling of their personal information or voter registration applications.
- Directs 3PVRs to:
  - Register for each election cycle and affirm any person collecting or handling applications has not been convicted of certain felonies, such as violating election laws, murder, felony sexual offense, or identity theft.
  - Deliver applications to the SOE within 10 days, instead of 14 days, and provide receipts to applicants.
- Criminalizes retention of personal information from applications for any reason other than to provide such application or information to the 3PVR.
- Increases fines for existing violations.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 76-34  
SENATE 28-12

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# HB 723

REPRESENTATIVE  
DALEY

# FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITMENT



Florida must be ready to protect itself from threats, respond quickly to natural disasters, and be ready to support Floridians at a moment's notice. This bill would have provided recruiting assistance for the Florida National Guard (FLNG) to increase the force structure.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Would have established the Florida National Guard Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program to bolster recruitment efforts and increase the force structure of the FLNG.
- Would have compensated FLNG members and retirees for referrals and enlistments.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The percentage of FLNG personnel compared to the state population translates to a National Guard strength of 54.3 personnel per 100,000 civilians.
- A number of states have launched state-funded and administered referral bonus programs known as Joint Enlistment Enhancement Programs (Enhancement Programs). These states include Alabama, Delaware, Vermont, and Virginia.
- These Enhancement Programs offer National Guard members of each respective state, that are not recruiters, the opportunity to serve as recruiting assistants who may earn bonuses for successfully referring and enlisting individuals into the recruiting assistant's state National Guard.

## BILL BASICS

- Would have established the Florida National Guard Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program within the Department of Military Affairs.
- Would have specified the eligibility requirements for recruiting assistants within the FLNG.
- Would have set compensation levels at \$250 for each new member referred to the FLNG and an additional \$250 upon the recruit's enlistment.

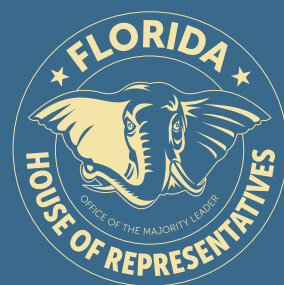
**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 104-0

**STATUS**  PASSED HOUSE ONLY

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

WAYS & MEANS / APPROPRIATIONS



# HB 7063

REPRESENTATIVE  
**McCLAIN**

# TAXATION



**The 2023-2024 Tax Package will provide over \$1.3 billion in tax relief for Floridians.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Returns money to the families and working men and women who know better how to spend it than the government ever can.
- Includes two Back-to-School Sales Tax Holidays, two Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holidays, Freedom Summer – a three-month Sales Tax Holiday on recreational items and events, a weeklong sales tax holiday on skilled worker tools, as well as a yearlong sales tax holiday on gas stoves and energy-efficient appliances.

## FLORIDA FAMILIES

### • BACK TO SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY

*(14 DAYS JULY 24-AUGUST 6 & 14 DAYS JANUARY 1-14)*

- Clothing items priced \$100 or less
  - School supplies priced \$50 or less
  - Computers and related accessories priced \$1,500 or less
  - Learning aids and puzzles priced \$30 or less
- ### • NEW PERMANENT SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS
- Oral hygiene products
    - Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, oral irrigators and mouthwash
  - Adult incontinence products
- ### • NEW Corporate Income Tax Credit for investment in equipment to produce human breast milk fortifiers – 2 years/\$5m.
- Increases the cap for the Strong Families Tax Credit from \$10m to \$20m to help provide more child welfare and wellbeing services.

### • NEW PERMANENT SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS ON BABY & TODDLER PRODUCTS

- **HEALTH**
  - Children's Diapers, Baby Wipes
  - Changing Tables and Changing Pads
  - Breast Pumps, Bottle Sterilizers, Baby Bottles, etc.
- **SAFETY**
  - Baby Safety Gates
  - Baby Monitors
  - Child Safety Cabinet Locks and Latches and Electrical Socket Covers
- **PLAY & FAMILY LIFE**
  - Baby Cribs, Playpens, and Play Yards
  - Baby Strollers
  - Baby Exercisers, Jumpers, Bouncer Seats, etc.
  - Bicycle Child Carrier Seats and Trailers
- **CLOTHING**
  - Baby and Toddler Clothing Size 5T and Smaller
  - Baby and Toddler Shoes Size 13T and Smaller

## HOMEOWNERS

### • TEMPORARY 1YEAR SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS

- **NEW GAS RANGES & COOKTOPS**
- **ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES**  
Refrigerators (\$4,500), Washer, Dryers & Water Heaters (\$1,500)

- Expands Homestead Benefits for Totally and Permanently Disabled Veterans, First Responders, and Surviving Spouses
- Revises thresholds for a property appraiser to challenge a Value Adjustment Board Decision in court.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# HB 7063

REPRESENTATIVE  
McCLAIN

# TAXATION



## FREEDOM SUMMER

- **NEW CHILDREN'S ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT**  
*(under \$100) & TOYS (under \$75)*
- **ADMISSIONS TO LIVE MUSIC EVENTS, LIVE SPORTING EVENTS, MOVIE THEATERS & STATE PARKS** *(for use or events scheduled to be held before the end of the year)*
- **FITNESS FACILITY DUES & FEES**
- **OUTDOOR RECREATION ITEMS**  
*(under certain dollar amounts amounts)*
  - **BOATING/WATER SPORTS**
    - snorkels, life jackets, inflatable tubes, etc.
  - **CAMPING SUPPLIES**
    - collapsible chairs, sleeping bags, binoculars, tents, etc.
  - **FISHING SUPPLIES**
    - rods, reels, bait, tackle, etc.
  - **GENERAL OUTDOOR SUPPLIES**
    - sunscreen, insect repellent, water bottles, etc.
  - **POOL TOYS, SUPPLIES & CHEMICALS**

## BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE

- Cuts the Business Rent Tax from 5.5% to 4.5%, Starting December 1, 2023, Until Rate Goes to 2% Under Current Law (expected Aug 2024)
- **NEW PERMANENT SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS**
  - Certain Cattle Fencing
  - Private Investigative Services by Small Private Investigative Agencies
  - Renewable Natural Gas Machinery and Equipment
- Exempts Certain SBA Small Business Loans From Documentary Stamp Tax.
- Delays Natural Gas Fuel Tax for 2 Years
- For Calculating Corporate Income Tax: Adopts the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2023 ("piggyback" provision).
- Prohibits Special Assessments on Agricultural Property.
- Provides Funding for 2 years for Horse Breeding and Racing Promotion.

## PUBLIC SAFETY & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- **NEW PERMANENT SALES TAX EXEMPTION**
  - Firearm safety devices, such as firearm cable locks and safes
- Increases Population Cap for certain coastal counties authorized to use tourist development tax for public safety
- **NEW** Corporate Income Tax Credit for installation of graywater systems 3 years/\$2m per corporation
- Freezes Local Communication Services Tax Rates for 3 Years Beginning July 1, 2023
- Increases the Annual Cap on the
  - Brownfields Tax Credit Program From \$10m to \$35m
- Allows Certain Cities in Miami/Dade to Approve by Referendum a Local Option Food and Beverage Tax
- **NEW PROPERTY TAX CUTS**
  - Expands Educational Exemption to Schools Under 98-Year or More Lease
  - Clarifies Parsonages Qualify for Religious Exemption

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 112-0  
SENATE 38-0

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# 2023 CONFORMING BILLS



## HB 1285: State Guard – Rep. Giallombardo

- Repeals the expiration date for the Florida State Guard (FSG), **making it a permanent component of the state militia.**
- **Revises the structure of the FSG** by creating a Division of the State Guard (Division) within the Department of Military Affairs as a separate budget entity, headed by a director who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and transfers administrative duties and powers from the Adjutant General to the director.
- Requires the director to **organize a specialized unit within the FSG** and requires specified members of the unit to meet certain minimum requirements.
- Repeals sections of law pertaining to the Florida State Defense Force and makes other conforming changes.

**FLOOR VOTES**

HOUSE **91-20**

SENATE **28-11**

**STATUS**



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



## SB 2502 (HB 5003): Implementing Bill – Rep. Leek

- The bill provides the statutory authority necessary to **implement and execute the General Appropriations Act** (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
- The statutory changes are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1, 2024, or revert to the language as it existed before the changes made by the bill.

**FLOOR VOTES**

HOUSE **105-5**

SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



## SB 2504 (HB 5005): Collective Bargaining – Rep. Leek

The bill provides for the **resolution of the collective bargaining issues** at impasse for the 2023-2024 fiscal year regarding state employees. Specifically, issues at impasse will be resolved as:

- Addressed by the General Appropriations Act,
- Resolved in accordance with the personnel rules in effect on May 1, 2023, or
- By maintaining the status quo under the language of the applicable current collective bargaining agreement.

**FLOOR VOTES**

HOUSE **112-0**

SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# 2023 CONFORMING BILLS



## SB 2506 (HB 5201): Capitol Complex – Rep. Busatta Cabrera

- **Expands the Capitol Complex** to include the Holland, Elliot, and R.A. Gray buildings, and their associated parking garages (Supreme Court building is not included). Currently, the Capitol Complex includes the Capitol, Historic Capitol, House and Senate Office, Pepper, and Knott buildings.
- **Establishes “Memorial Park”** as the portion of the Capitol Complex existing between and including the Elliot and Holland buildings, within an area bounded by and including Monroe Street, Gaines Street, Calhoun Street, and East Pensacola Street.
- Legislative authorized memorials or monuments will be **placed in Memorial Park**.

### FLOOR VOTES

HOUSE **97-13**

SENATE **38-0**

### STATUS



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



## SB 2510 (HB 5305): Health – Rep. Garrison

- **Increases the income threshold** above which a resident in a State Veterans’ nursing facility would be required to contribute to his or her account from \$130 to \$160 per month.
- **Clarifies the premiums paid** under Florida KidCare’s full-pay programs are based on the combined-risk premium.
- **Increases the nursing home prospective payment reimbursement** methodology for the Quality Incentive Program Payment Pool from 6 percent to 10 percent of the September 2016 non-property related payments of included facilities.
- **Creates the Graduate Medical Education Slots for Doctors Program.**
- Provides for a portion of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care achieved savings rebate to be repaid to the federal government.
- Establishes a Medicaid long-term care managed care pilot program in certain counties to **integrate health care services, long-term care services, and home and community-based services for persons with developmental disabilities**; requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek federal approval to implement the pilot program; and requires the plans to begin providing service coverage upon authorization and availability of sufficient state and federal resources.
- Clarifies that the Agency for Health Care Administration may not require a home health agency that does not provide skilled home health services and only provides private duty nursing services and attendant nursing care services, **to meet the requirements of Medicare certification for participation in the Medicaid program.**

### FLOOR VOTES

HOUSE **111-0**

SENATE **38-0**

### STATUS



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# 2023 CONFORMING BILLS



## HB 5101: Education – Rep. Tomkow

- **Modernizes the 50-year old Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to align with the state's school choice policy** by fully funding both school district and Family Empowerment Scholarship students in the FEFP.
- **Repeals the weighted enrollment ceiling** on the Group 2 education programs which includes the English Students of Other Languages (ESOL) education program.
- Renames the district cost differential (DCD) to the comparable wage factor (CWF) and modifies its application by authorizing the use of the CWF in the calculation of the FEFP **only when a school district's CWF is greater than 1.000.**
- Creates the Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program to **ensure the financial stability of school districts.**
- **Creates the Heroes in the Classroom Sign-on Bonus Program** to provide a one-time bonus to honorably discharged and retired military veterans and retired first responders who commit to joining the teaching profession as full-time classroom teachers.
- **Establishes the Florida School for Competitive Academics in Alachua County** as a state-supported public school for 6th – 12th grade students to provide a rigorous academic curriculum and to prepare students for regional, state, and national academic competitions in all areas of study, including STEM.

### FLOOR VOTES

HOUSE **111-0** SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



## HB 5303: Biomedical Research – Rep. Garrison

- **Expands eligibility for funding pursuant to the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program** to include cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center with at least one geographic site in Florida.
- **Clarifies the allocation factors** upon which funding is based are for activities within Florida and holds harmless current cancer centers in the program.
- Eliminates the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program endowed chair and associated funding.

### FLOOR VOTES

HOUSE **111-0** SENATE **39-0**

**STATUS** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# 2023 CONFORMING BILLS



## SB 7018 (HB 1219): Inmate Welfare Trust Fund – Rep. Smith

- **Authorizes the collection of revenue from additional sources** for deposit into the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund (Trust Fund), including proceeds obtained through the collection of damages pursuant to s. 960.293(2), F.S.; cost of incarceration liens pursuant to s. 960.292(2), F.S.; and copayments made by inmates for nonemergency visits to a healthcare provider.
- **Eliminates the current \$100 statutory cap** on the weekly amount that inmates can spend on canteen and vending items. Without the statutory cap, the weekly amount would be set by the Department of Corrections.
- Increases the authorized amount of deposits into the Trust Fund, **from \$2.5 million up to \$32 million per fiscal year**, maintaining that all excess revenue above \$32 million must be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
- Allows for the funds in the Trust Fund to be utilized for **fixed capital outlay for educational facilities** and to provide **environmental wellness upgrades** to facilities.

### FLOOR VOTES

HOUSE **112-0**

SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



## SB 7024 (HB 239): Florida Retirement System – Rep. Busatta Cabrera

- **Restores full retirement benefits** to all Special Risk employees upon **reaching 25 years of service**. Currently, those hired on or after July 1, 2011, must serve 30 years to reach full retirement.
- **Increases** the employer-funded allocations to investment plan accounts **by 2 percent** for each membership class in the investment plan.
- **Revises DROP by:**
  - **Increasing the length of time** all eligible members can participate in DROP from **60 to 96 months**.
  - **Extending the maximum amount of time** for Instructional Personnel to participate in DROP from 96 to 120 calendar months. The extension sunsets June 30, 2029.
  - **Removing the age restrictive entry windows** to enter DROP for all members who have met normal retirement requirements.
  - Increases the interest applied to a member's DROP account from 1.3 to 4 percent. Prior to July 1, 2011, the interest rate was 6.5%.

### FLOOR VOTES

HOUSE **112-0**

SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**



SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL SESSION 2022A & 2023B



# SB 2-A

(HB 1A)

REPRESENTATIVES

LEEK &  
ROMMEL

# PROPERTY INSURANCE



**SB 2-A strikes a difficult but careful balance in Florida's property insurance market.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Ensures Floridians can access property insurance while limiting or reversing the growth of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens).
- Targets frivolous lawsuits while protecting consumers during the claims process.
- Sends a strong signal to insurance carriers that Florida is open for business.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Excess litigation drives up the cost of Florida's insurance rates. The bill eliminates one-way attorney fees in property insurance, which has become a perverse incentive for the filing and continuation of lawsuits. This works hand in hand with the elimination of AOBs in property insurance to finally end AOB abuse in this area. This legislation builds on recent policy to further promote out-of-court resolution for insurance claims, thereby decreasing costs for insurers and ultimately, for policyholders.
- Additionally, Florida is unique because it is surrounded by water and experiences a high rate of extreme-weather events. Florida's spectacular natural environment also creates challenges for our homes and businesses.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- **Targets litigation-related drivers by:**
  - Eliminating one-way attorney fees for property insurance claims.
  - Removing the ability to execute an assignment of benefits (AOB), except existing carve-outs, including but not limited to, those for seller-to-buyer AOB when there is an ongoing insurance claim.
  - Encouraging out-of-court settlements by re-engaging the use of offers of judgment, strengthening the standards for bringing a bad faith claim, and providing opportunities to use binding arbitration to resolve claims (if the policyholder chooses such a policy endorsement and associated premium discount).

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# SB 2-A

(HB 1A)

REPRESENTATIVES

**LEEK &  
ROMMEL**

# PROPERTY INSURANCE



## BILL BASICS CONTINUED...

- **Increases consumer protection by:**
  - Reducing the claims handling timeline including claims acknowledgment, investigation, payment, and review.
  - Requiring insurers to provide within 7 days the adjuster's reports estimating the loss.
  - Encouraging insurers to resolve claims more quickly by authorizing inspections by electronic means.
  - Increasing transparency requirements by the insurer, including providing dates of claims activities, and documentation to the claimant.
- **Strengthens the insurance market by:**
  - Supporting a stable property insurance market by providing a new opportunity for insurers to purchase reinsurance, which is increasingly hard to obtain in the current world-market for reinsurance.
  - Creating the Florida Optional Reinsurance Assistance program to provide insurers with the option to purchase hurricane reinsurance at near market rates.
  - Maintaining the Reinsurance to Assist Policyholders program (RAP) to allow insurers that did not participate during 2022 to receive their RAP reinsurance in 2023.
- **Realigns Citizens with its mission to be the insurer of last resort by:**
  - Increasing Citizens depopulation and avoiding growth of new Citizens policies.
  - Restricting coverage eligibility to exclude those who receive offers from the private market when the offered premiums are within 20% Citizens' premium.
  - Requiring all Citizens non-commercial policyholders to purchase flood insurance by 2027.
  - Bringing premiums on non-primary residences to their true actuarial premium value more quickly.
  - Reinforcing Citizens' role as the "Carrier of Last Resort" by avoiding the unintended possibility of Citizens rates actually declining in certain localized areas (and unnecessarily being competitive with the private market).

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **84-33**  
SENATE **27-13**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR

# SB 4-A

(HB 3A)

REPRESENTATIVES  
**McCLAIN &  
LEEK**

# DISASTER RELIEF



**SB 4-A helps Floridians recover from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole and positions the state to provide relief quicker after future storms.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Helps rebuild our communities impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole by funding recovery and relief efforts.
- Positions the state to provide relief quicker after future storms by creating the Florida Emergency Management Assistance Foundation.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- To be eligible for a property tax refund, a property must have been uninhabitable for at least 30 days, and the property owner must have paid their property taxes on time and in full.
- The Florida Emergency Management Assistance Foundation will provide assistance, funding, and support to Division of Emergency Management (DEM) in its disaster response, recovery, and relief efforts for natural emergencies. The foundation is repealed December 31, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.



## BILL BASICS

- Provides tax relief for residential property rendered uninhabitable for at least 30 days through property tax refunds and extends property tax deadlines and discounts for owners of property destroyed or rendered uninhabitable due to Hurricane Ian or Nicole.
- Ensures local governments can recover by providing \$350 million to cover the entire required one-half local match needed to secure funding from FEMA Public Assistance Grants.
- Funds coastal beach erosion recovery and mitigation efforts with \$100 million to supplement the existing Beach Management Funding Assistance Program and \$50 million to create the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program.
- Safeguards community infrastructure by creating the Hurricane Stormwater and Wastewater Assistance Grant Program to provide \$100 million of financial assistance to local governments.
- Dedicates \$150 million to affordable housing hurricane recovery efforts.
- Positions the state to provide relief quicker by creating the Florida Emergency Management Assistance Foundation to provide assistance, funding, and support to DEM.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

# SB 6-A

(HB 5A)

REPRESENTATIVE  
**BUSATTA  
CABRERA**

# TOLL RELIEF



**SB 6-A provides relief to put more money back in the pockets of commuters as they continue to provide for themselves and their families.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Helps alleviate the financial burden of tolls on hard-working Floridians by creating a toll-relief program to reimburse frequent commuters.
- Supports the many commuters who provide services which are vital to our communities.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The program will work through SunPass or another Florida-based electronic prepaid toll program. Customers who use a Florida-issued transponder and record 35 or more toll transactions per calendar month on the Florida Turnpike and all other Florida toll facilities will receive a 50% credit issued to their account. If the account is in good standing, the credit will be posted the month after the credit is earned.
- Any customer using a two-axle vehicle, a Florida-issued transponder, and a private, prepaid Florida-based electronic toll program account will be eligible for toll relief.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Creates a 12-month toll relief program (from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023) that provides a 50% account credit for Florida commuters with an electronic prepaid toll program account, such as SunPass, who record 35 or more transactions in a month.
- Appropriates \$500 million to reimburse toll facilities for issuing such credits and ensures they maintain compliance with bond covenants.
- Requires the prepaid toll program account to be in good standing, and the account credit must be posted the month after the credit is earned.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE **116-0**  
SENATE **38-0**

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



The 2022 hurricane season resulted in widespread destruction, including damage to homes, essential infrastructure, agricultural lands, and coastal areas. We must continue our efforts to help those devastated by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Provides additional resources to support ongoing relief and recovery for communities impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.
- Helps impacted local governments maintain their operations by providing temporary financial assistance.



## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Preliminary state agency cost estimates indicate actual and obligated expenditures of over \$1.3 billion to date, with a total projected cost estimate of approximately \$2 billion for ongoing response to Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.
- The Local Government Emergency Response Bridge Loan Program provides interest-free loans to help local governments impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole maintain their operations by bridging the gap between the time a declared disaster occurs and the time that additional funding sources or revenues are secured.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund was created by the legislature for the Governor to use exclusively during an emergency for quicker recovery efforts.



## BILL BASICS

- Preliminary state agency cost estimates indicate actual and obligated expenditures of over \$1.3 billion to date, with a total projected cost estimate of approximately \$2 billion for ongoing response to Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.
- The Local Government Emergency Response Bridge Loan Program provides interest-free loans to help local governments impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole maintain their operations by bridging the gap between the time a declared disaster occurs and the time that additional funding sources or revenues are secured.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund was created by the legislature for the Governor to use exclusively during an emergency for quicker recovery efforts.

# SB 4-B

(HB 3B)

REPRESENTATIVE  
**FERNANDEZ  
-BARQUIN**

# STATEWIDE PROSECUTOR



Safe and secure elections are vital to a healthy republic.

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes the enforcement of election law by giving the Office of Statewide Prosecutor (OSP) more tools to prosecute election crimes.
- Protects integrity in our elections by ensuring those who commit election crimes are held accountable.

## ★ CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- Currently, OSP is authorized to prosecute specified offenses only when a crime is connected with an organized criminal conspiracy affecting two or more judicial circuits or the offense occurred in two or more judicial circuits as part of a related transaction.
- SB 4-B modifies this jurisdiction for crimes involving voting, petition activities, or voter registration by deleting the current statutory requirement that such a crime be connected with an organized criminal conspiracy that affects two or more judicial circuits, and simply requires the crime to have affected two or more judicial circuits.
- On August 18, 2022, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement arrested 20 individuals for violating election laws and charges were filed by OSP. To date, three cases have been dismissed on the grounds that OSP lacked jurisdiction to prosecute such cases.

## 🔍 BILL BASICS

- Ensures those who commit election crimes are held accountable by clarifying the authority of OSP to prosecute crimes involving elections for federal or state office, and petition activities.
- Allows OSP to investigate and prosecute crimes occurring in multiple jurisdictions involving:
  - Voting.
  - Petition activities.
  - Voter registration.

**FLOOR VOTES** HOUSE 77-33  
SENATE 27-12

**STATUS**  SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

# TRANSPORTATION OF INSPECTED UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS



**The Federal Government has proven itself unwilling to address the immigration crisis. In the absence of national leadership, Florida will lead.**

## MAJOR MESSAGES

- Promotes the safety and security of Floridians by providing the tools needed to protect the rule-of-law.
- Assists local communities who have been strained by an influx of unauthorized migrants.

## CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- The Biden administration's disastrous border policies have led to an unprecedented surge of illegal migrants arriving in the United States. The influx of unauthorized migrants puts a strain on local communities and depletes available resources for US citizens.
- In an effort to mitigate the impacts of increased migration on Florida, the 2022 Legislature appropriated \$12 million to the Department of Transportation to implement a program to facilitate the transport of unauthorized aliens from the state. The bill repeals the prior program and establishes and funds the new Unauthorized Alien Transport Program under the Division of Emergency Management.

## BILL BASICS

- Creates the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program to facilitate the voluntary transport of unauthorized migrants who have been processed by the federal government and released into the United States.
- Provides \$10 million in nonrecurring funds for the program to ensure it is implemented properly and in a timely fashion.



Florida has been a leader in expanding opportunities for college athletes to benefit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL).

### MAJOR MESSAGES

- Empowers college athletes by expanding opportunities and facilitating their ability to capitalize on the full benefits of NIL as authorized by the NCAA.
- Lays the foundation for college athletes to succeed by improving the financial literacy and life skills workshop.
- Ensures our postsecondary athletic programs stay competitive by leveling the playing field with other students.

### CRUCIAL CONTEXT

- While Florida's NIL law has not been updated since its enactment, other states have had the opportunity to learn and benefit from Florida's early action. For example, Florida's NIL law prohibits institutions from causing NIL compensation to be directed to an intercollegiate athlete. As a result, athletes may not be aware of NIL opportunities that exist, or if they are aware, are unable to receive information or other support from their institutions beyond the statutorily required financial literacy and life skills workshop.
- In October 2022, the NCAA issued new guidance clarifying institutions may have limited involvement in the NIL process. This has put Florida in a situation where the state law is more restrictive than what the NCAA allows.

### BILL BASICS

- Removes the prohibition on institutions and their support organizations causing compensation to be directed to intercollegiate athletes.
- Strengthens the financial literacy and life skills workshop and requiring it to be given at least twice to all college athletes before graduation.
- Protects postsecondary institutions and their staff from liability related to loss of NIL compensation due to routine decisions taken in the course of intercollegiate athletics.
- Preserves the ability of college athletes to hire an agent to help them navigate the NIL process and protect their interests.

